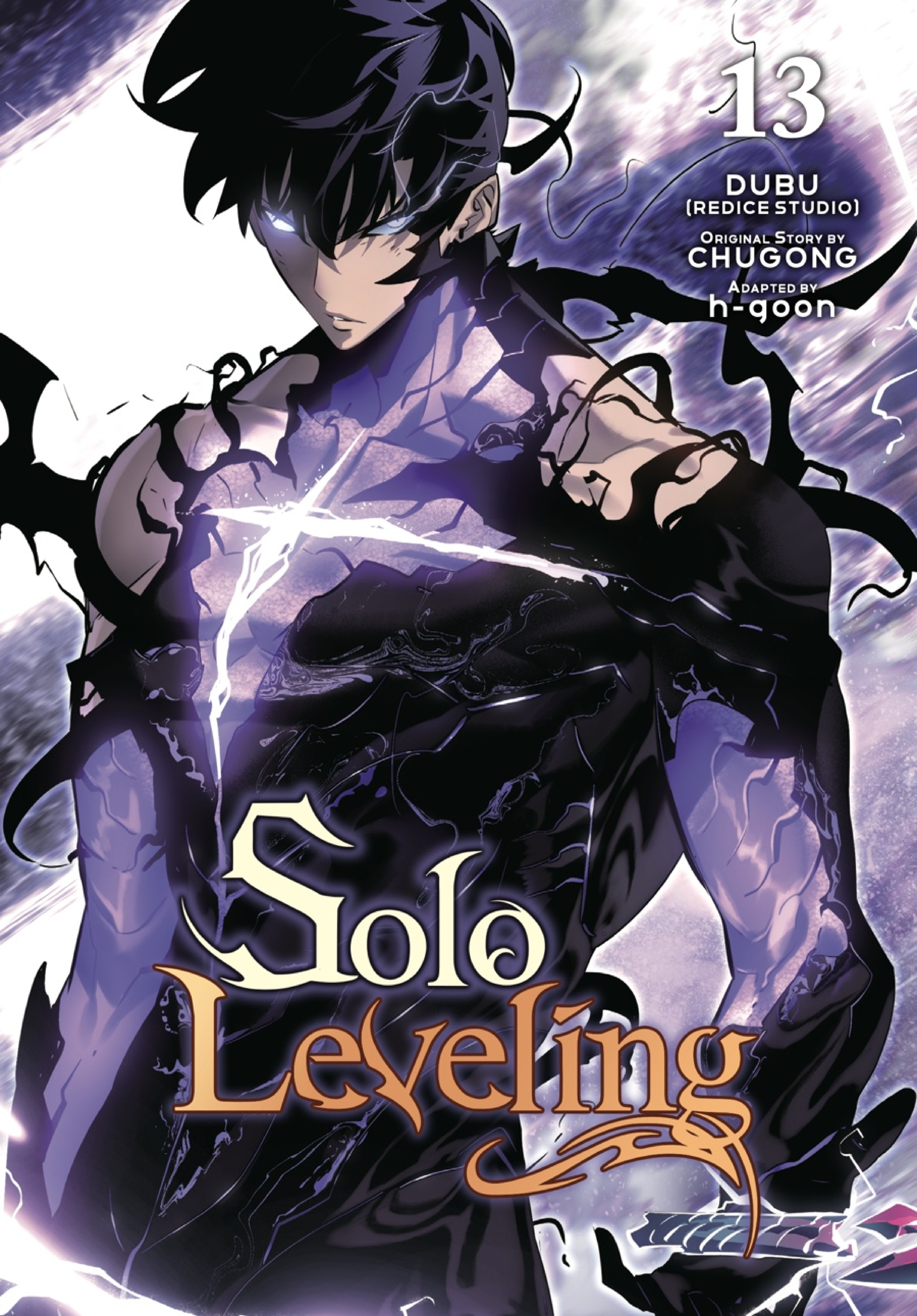
13
DUBU
(REDICE STUDIO)
Original Story by
CHUGONG
Adapted by
h-goon
Solo
Leveling


13
DUBU
(REDICE STUDIO)
ORIGINAL STORY BY
CHUGONG
ADAPTED BY
h-goon
Solo Leveling

CHARACTERS

Jinwoo Sung

S-rank Hunter,
Shadow Monarch

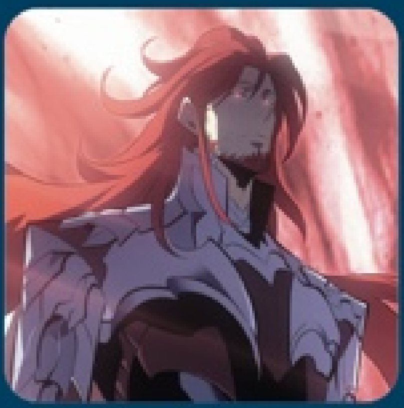
Norma Sellner

Upgrader

Bellion

Grand Marshal of the
Shadow Army

Antares



The Dragon King,
Monarch of Destruction

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 37
The Dragon King
5

CHAPTER 38
The Final War I
59

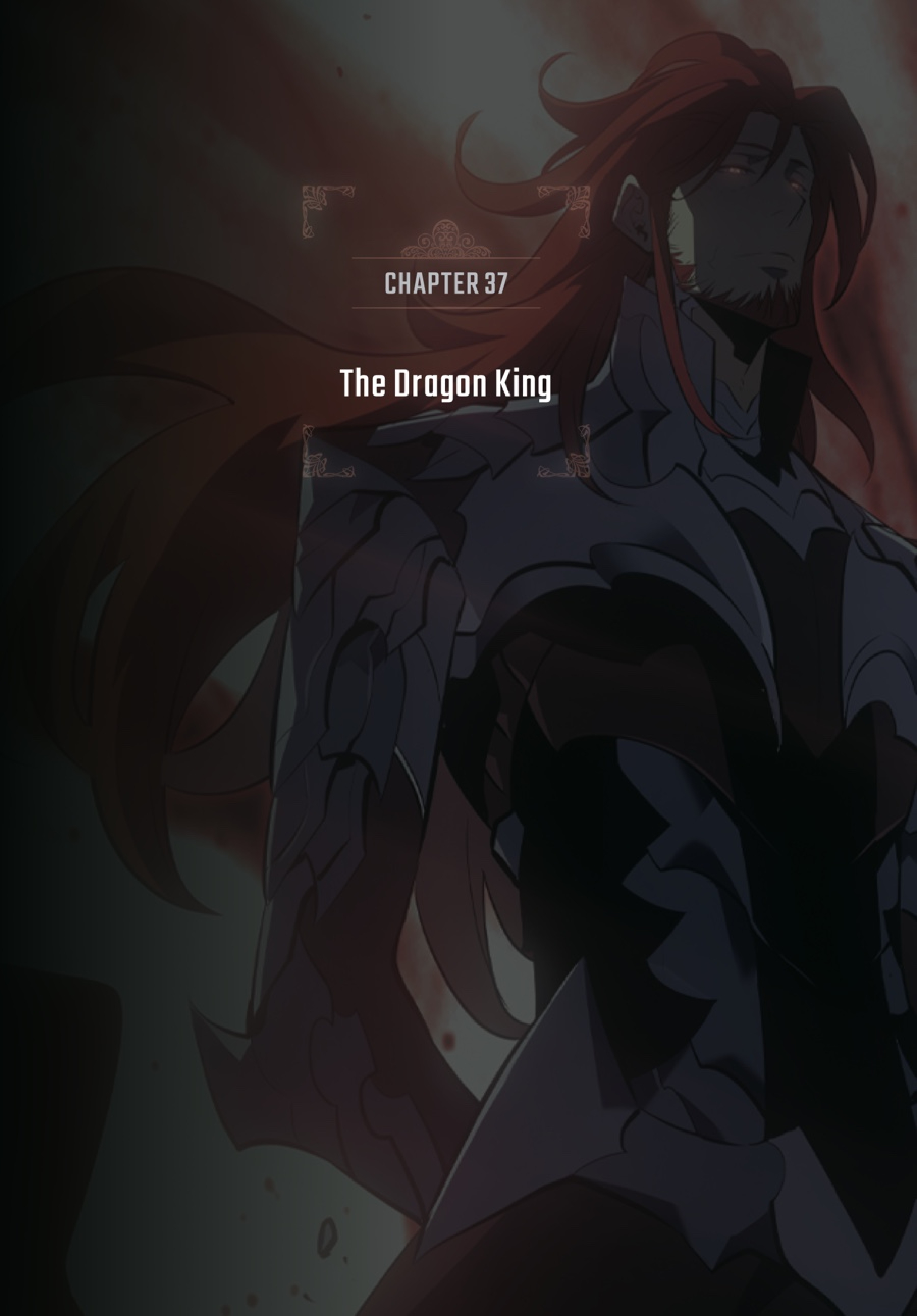
CHAPTER 39
The Final War II
159

CHAPTER 40
Solo Leveling
229

Solo
Leveling

CHAPTER 37

The Dragon King

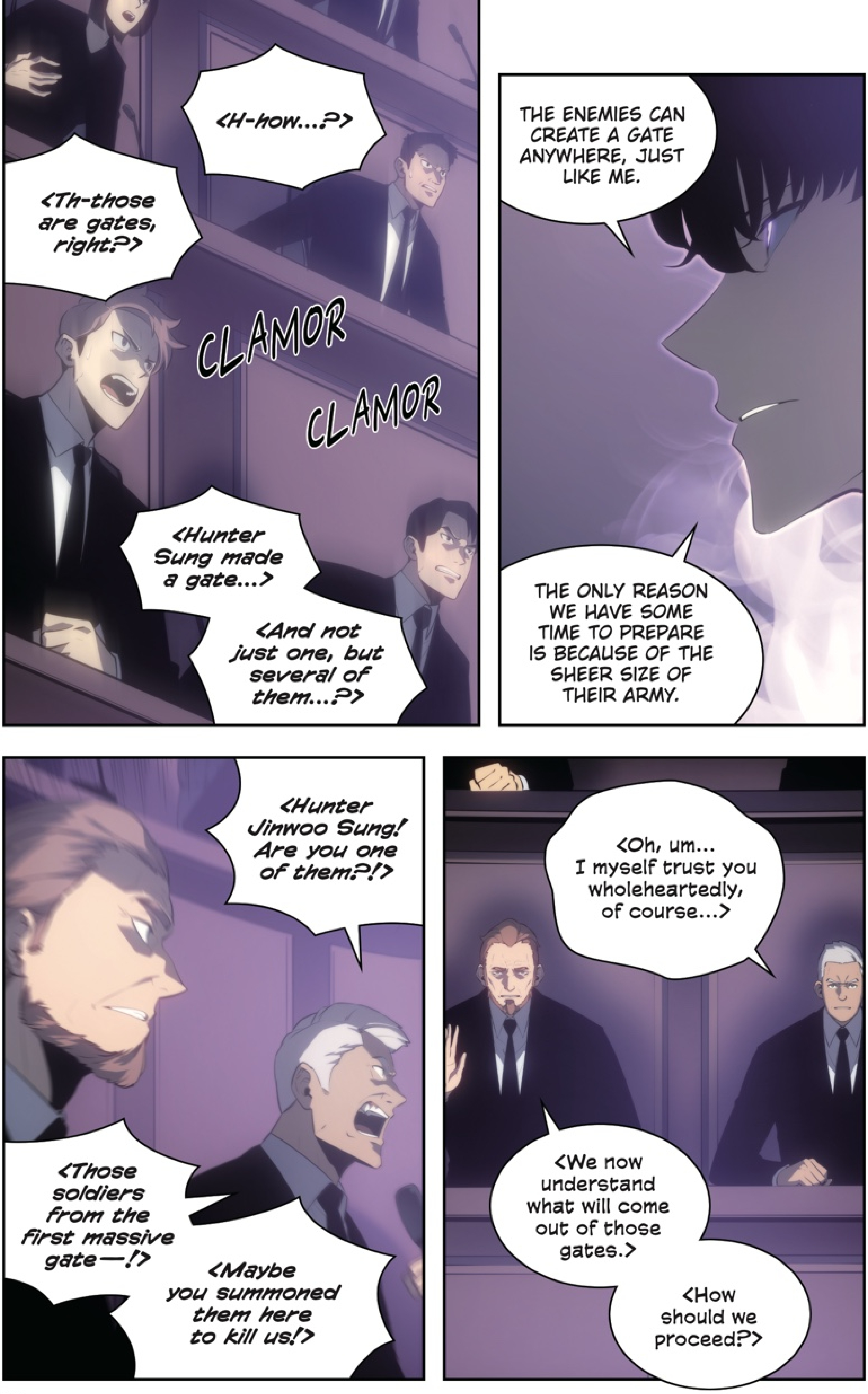


Solo Leveling

<...So many people have come.>
WHEW...
<Presidents, ministers, guild masters, and the heads of various hunter's associations...>
<Everyone is under the gun.>
<It would be great...>
<...if Hunter Sung stands up in front of everyone and says, "These gates won't be a problem"...>
<...but in the case that he says the opposite...>

IT WILL BE A DIFFICULT TIME FOR EVERYONE.
DU
DUN
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TURN A BLIND EYE TO THIS.
THEY WILL DESCEND UPON ALL OF YOU AND DESTROY EVERYTHING.
<D-do you seriously expect us to believe that?>
<Surely you don't mean that even national-level hunters can't stop them?>
HUNDREDS OF MAGIC BEASTS ON PAR WITH KAMISH—THE BIGGEST CALAMITY TO DATE—WILL APPEAR.
EVEN NATIONAL-LEVEL HUNTERS WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP THEM.

<Show... Show us the evidence!>
<I won't believe you until you do!>
<You claim hundreds of magic beasts like Kamish will appear? That makes no sense!>
SHF
VWOOOM

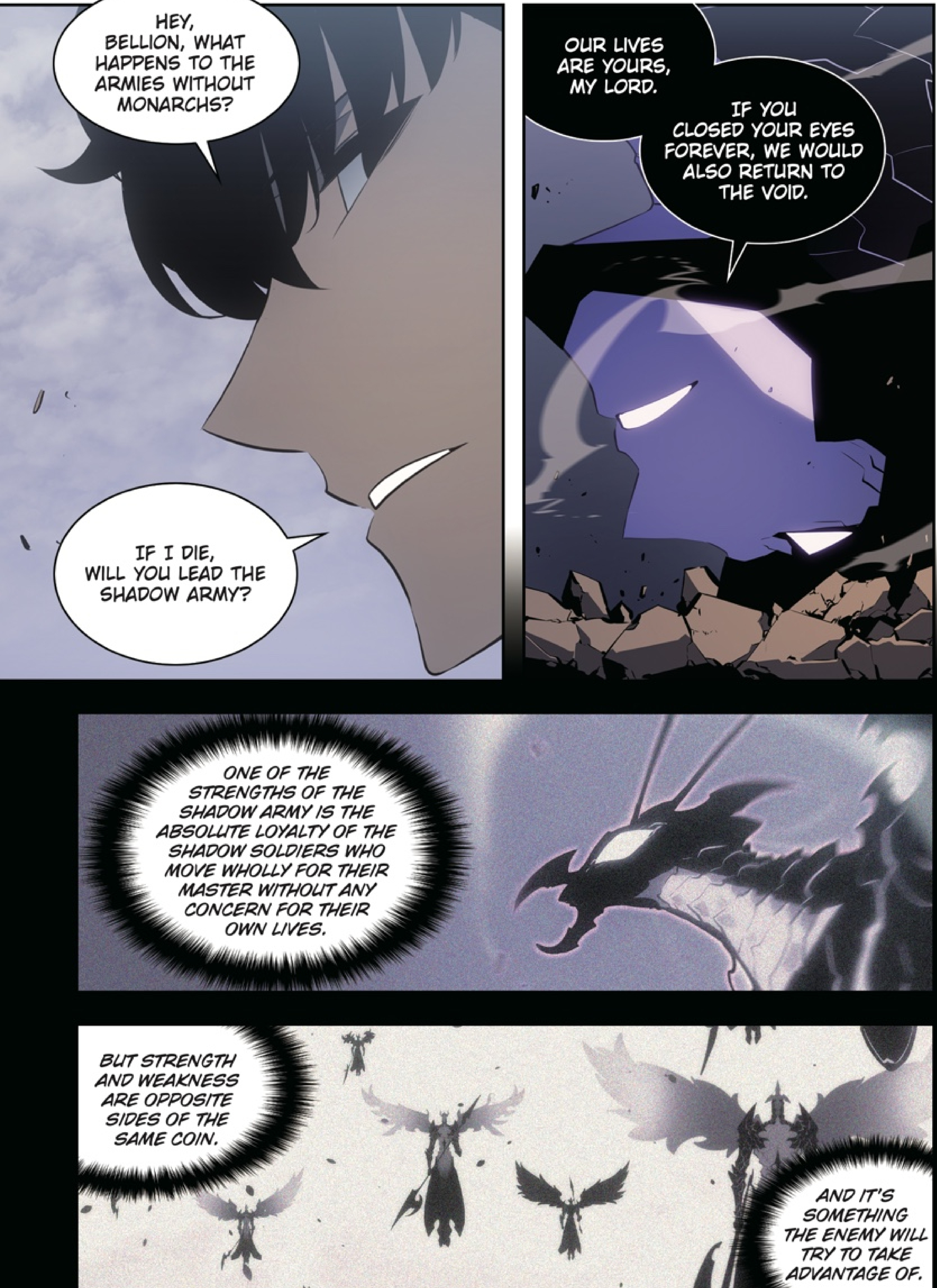

<H-how...?>
<Th-those are gates, right?>
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
<Hunter Sung made a gate...>
<And not just one, but several of them...?>
THE ENEMIES CAN CREATE A GATE ANYWHERE, JUST LIKE ME.
THE ONLY REASON WE HAVE SOME TIME TO PREPARE IS BECAUSE OF THE SHEER SIZE OF THEIR ARMY.
<Hunter Jinwoo Sung! Are you one of them?!>
<Those soldiers from the first massive gate—!>
<Maybe you summoned them here to kill us!>
<Oh, um... I myself trust you wholeheartedly, of course...>
<We now understand what will come out of those gates.>
<How should we proceed?>

PLEASE KEEP AWAY FROM THE GATES.

PUT AS MUCH DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM AND YOURSELVES AS YOU CAN.
DUN

"RUN AS FAR AS YOU CAN!"
THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF JINWOO'S ANNOUNCEMENT WAS TREMENDOUS.
HEEDING HIS WARNING THAT AN UNTOLD NUMBER OF MAGIC BEASTS WOULD POUR OUT OF THE GATES...
...PEOPLE FEARFULLY SCRAMBLED TO PUT AS MUCH DISTANCE AS THEY COULD FROM SAID GATES.

BERU, GET YOUR ASS OVER HERE.
WOOM
MY KING!!
ASSUME THE POSITION.
THIS IS WHAT YOU CONSIDER "COMFORTABLE AND SMALL"?
NEVER MIND ITS SIZE! COULD YOU EVEN CALL THIS A SHELTER?
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
THIS IS THE LEAST YOU DESERVE AS OUR KING...
WHY THE HELL IS THERE A FLAG?
WHAM
OH, YOU'RE THE REASON?


HEY, BELLION, WHAT HAPPENS TO THE ARMIES WITHOUT MONARCHS?
IF I DIE, WILL YOU LEAD THE SHADOW ARMY?
OUR LIVES ARE YOURS, MY LORD.
IF YOU CLOSED YOUR EYES FOREVER, WE WOULD ALSO RETURN TO THE VOID.
ONE OF THE STRENGTHS OF THE SHADOW ARMY IS THE ABSOLUTE LOYALTY OF THE SHADOW SOLDIERS WHO MOVE WHOLLY FOR THEIR MASTER WITHOUT ANY CONCERN FOR THEIR OWN LIVES.
BUT STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS ARE OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE SAME COIN.
AND IT'S SOMETHING THE ENEMY WILL TRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF.

MY LORD. IN THE EVENT OF AN ALL-OUT WAR, WE STAND NO CHANCE OF VICTORY.
SHF
WHAT DO YOU THINK THE DIFFERENCE IN COMBAT POWER IS?
WE DO NOT KNOW FOR SURE, BUT AT LEAST A HUNDREDFOLD.
THAT MEANS THE ENEMY HAS AT LEAST TEN MILLION SOLDIERS...

<Tell him to stop spewing bullshit.>
<If I knew how to reach Hunter Sung...>
<...I would tell him that myself.>
CANADIAN S-RANK HUNTER JAY MILLS
<But he is one of the best hunters in the world, isn't he?>
<How can we ignore a warning from someone of that caliber?>
<Even if the man himself is incredible, not everything he says is.>
<Hunter Sung, you won't get to hog all these gates for yourself, no matter how much you try to scare people with your nonsense.>

<You don't scare me one bit.>
HUNTERS IN CANADA ARE RALLYING BEHIND JAY MILLS.
IT ALSO LOOKS LIKE INDIA AND A FEW OTHER COUNTRIES WITH STRONG HUNTER FORCES ARE PREPARING FOR RAIDS OF THEIR OWN.
BEEP
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO NEXT, HUNTER SUNG?
FOR NOW...
...I'M GOING TO CHINA.
FIGHTING ALL EIGHT ARMIES AT ONCE WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE.
IN THAT CASE, I ELECT TO TAKE CARE OF THE THREAT CLOSEST TO SOUTH KOREA, WHERE MY FAMILY LIVES.
I'LL DEAL WITH THE OTHER MONARCHS LATER.
MY CHANCE AT VICTORY WILL INCREASE WITH EACH SUCCESSIVE BATTLE ANYWAY.

I WAS EXPECTING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO COME, BUT YOU'RE A WELCOME SURPRISE, HUNTER LIU.
<All they did was put up stupid banners, so I decided to escort you myself, Hunter Sung.>
<This way, please.>
WE CAN SEE IT EVEN FROM THE AIRPORT.
<Yes, that's the massive gate that appeared recently.>
<And...>

DU
<...these are
a hundred thousand
elite hunters from
China.>
DUN

<They are great in both number and power.>
I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE ARE MORE THAN A HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE. IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN MAYBE...
<It will begin soon.>
COME OUT.
WHISH
WHOOOOOM

<Th- they're on a whole other level.>
<Things like those will fall from the sky? Here?>
<No way...>
<Are they all your minions, Hunter Sung?>
HOW DARE HE TAKE MY SPOT TO HIS HIGHNESS'S LEFT...!!
HE'S ON OUR SIDE, DUDE.
<Hunter Sung, you can communicate with your—?>
<I-it's opening!!>
CRASH

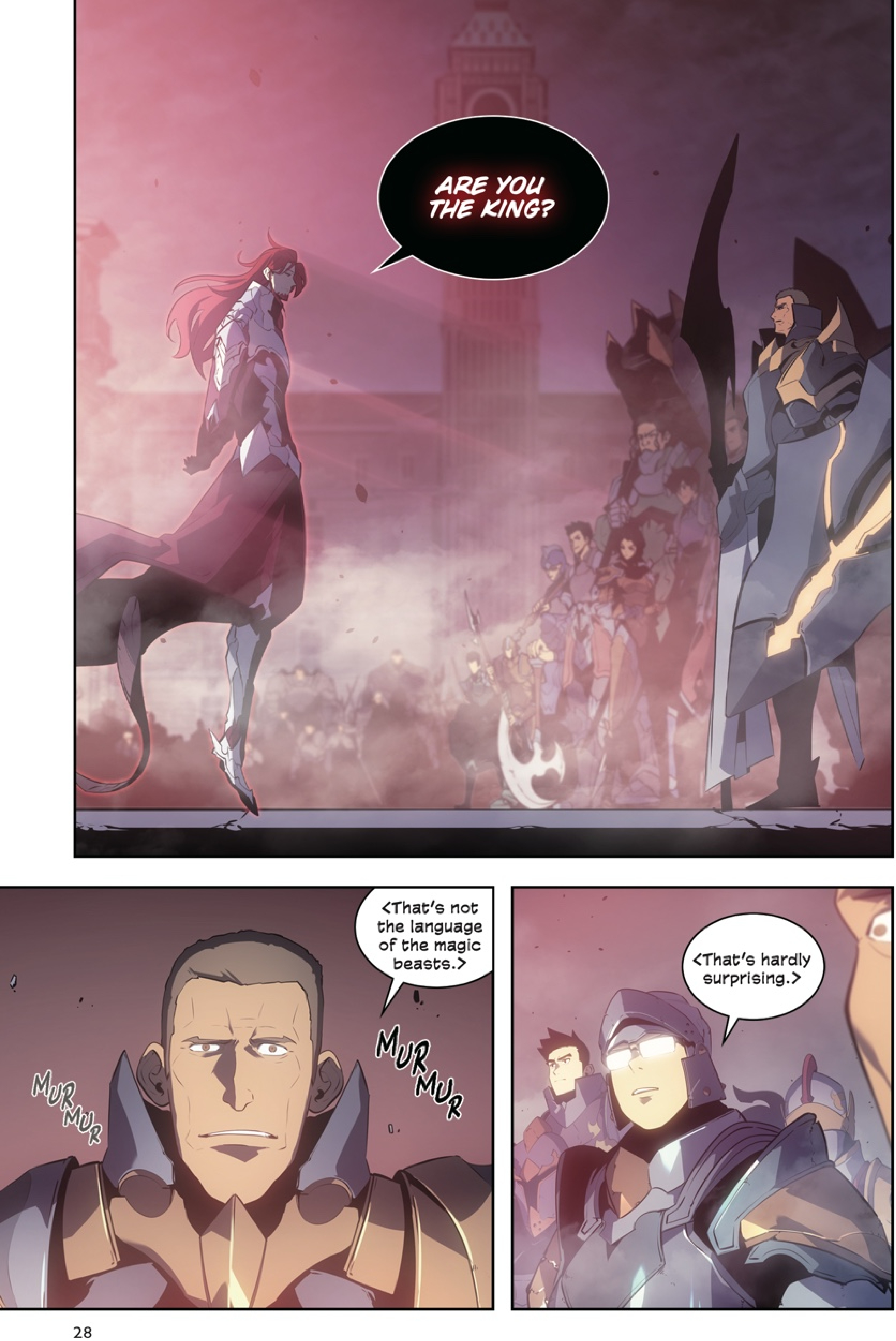
IT'S BEGUN.
SOMETHING IS STRANGE, MY LIEGE.
I CANNOT DETECT ANY PRESENCE.
WHAT?
COULD IT BE...?!
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER LOCATIONS?
THE OTHER GATES ARE THE SAME, ACCORDING TO THE SOLDIERS STATIONED AROUND THE WORLD.
THEN IS EVERY ONE OF THE GATES EMPTY?

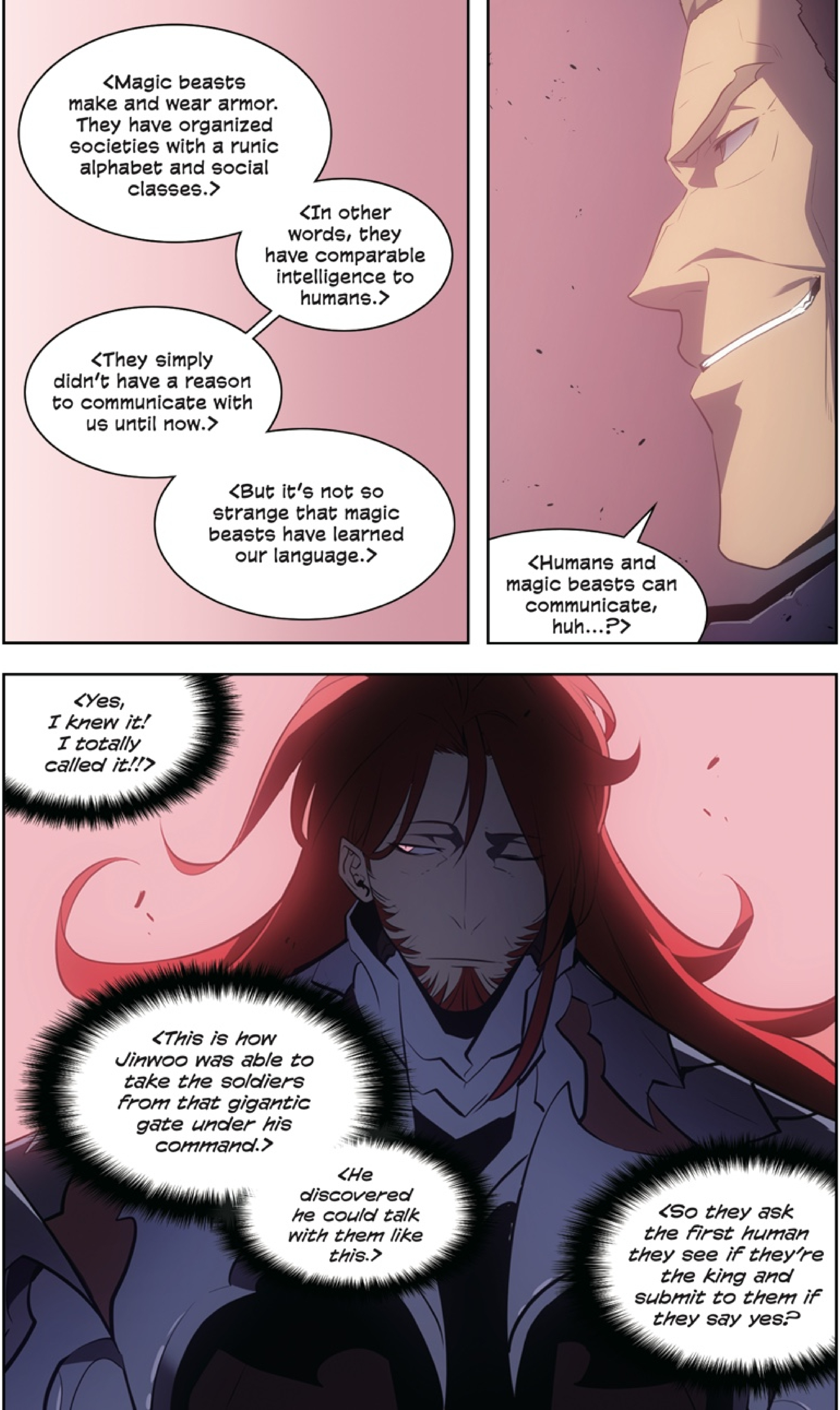
...HANG ON, I MADE A MISTAKE.
WHIRL
I THOUGHT THE MONARCHS' PLAN WAS TO CREATE GATES AT MULTIPLE LOCATIONS TO DIVIDE MY ARMY, BUT...!
KRZZZT
THEY ACTUALLY INTENDED TO SEND THEIR ENTIRE FORCE TO THE GATE FARTHEST FROM ME!

<To think everyone chose to cling to Hunter Sung!>
Hunter Jinwoo Sung Chooses China!
Japan and Russia announce that they will send support for Hunter Sung...
The airplane transporting hunters is scheduled to depart this afternoon...
Meanwhile, an investigation reveals that the white castle discovered in an abandoned Japanese forest has nothing to do with the gates...
With five hours left before the dungeon break, will Hunter Sung's warning be proven true?
<While everyone else turned to Jinwoo Sung, we didn't waver!>
<Canada never gives up!>
e don't
un away!
YEAAH!
<Our hunters will protect us and our country!>

CRASH
<Whatever magic beasts emerge, we will be victorious!>
<Here they come!>
<......>
FSHH
<What's going on?>
<Didn't he say magic beasts would fall like rain?>
<Was Jinwoo Sung exaggerating?>

<There's only one...?>
RUMBLE
<A humanoid creature ...?>
<No, it's an actual human.>


ARE YOU THE KING?
<That's not the language of the magic beasts.>
MURMUR
MURMUR
<That's hardly surprising.>


<Magic beasts make and wear armor. They have organized societies with a runic alphabet and social classes.>
<In other words, they have comparable intelligence to humans.>
<They simply didn't have a reason to communicate with us until now.>
<But it's not so strange that magic beasts have learned our language.>
<Humans and magic beasts can communicate, huh...?>
<Yes, I knew it! I totally called it!!>
<This is how Jinwoo was able to take the soldiers from that gigantic gate under his command.>
<He discovered he could talk with them like this.>
<So they ask the first human they see if they're the king and submit to them if they say yes?

<What if I told you that I am?>
IT SEEMS HE'S NOT HERE.
IS THERE ANY WAY TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN CANADA?
PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT.

RIGHT, AGENT WHITE FROM THE HUNTER COMMANDER CENTER MIGHT KNOW...!
Hunger Sung!
ADAM, WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE GATE IN CANADA—?
YEAH!
Wait... Where are you?
I'M ON-SITE WITH OTHER AMERICAN AGENTS TO LEND OUR SUPPORT FOR THE RAID.
WHOOO!
Why the hell are you there?!!
WE'RE NOT EXACTLY IN A POSITION TO SIT BACK AND WATCH WHAT HAPPENS...
THAT'S WHY MANY OF MY COLLEAGUES ARE HERE WITH ME.

DAMN IT... PEOPLE HAVE NO IDEA OF THE ENORMITY OF THE SITUATION.
HAVE THERE BEEN ANY... CHANGES WITH THE GATE?
NO, IT LOOKS LIKE THE GATE IS EMPTY JUST LIKE EVERYWHERE ELSE.
ALL QUIET.
WHEW, THANK GOODNESS.
Huh? Hang on.
Something...! Something is coming out of the gate.
A person...?
It's a single person!
FLINCH
A SINGLE... PERSON...?

Adam! Get out of there!!
Get in a car, anything! Just get out now!
FWOOSH
THE HUNTERS...
FWOOOM

All the high-rank hunters on the front lines have been turned into ash!
ADAM! I GOT IT, SO GET OUT OF THERE NOW!!
YOU NEED TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!
DRAGONS ARE... IT'S AN ENDLESS HORDE OF DRAGONS AND OTHER MAGIC BEASTS!
AAH!
GYAAAAH!
THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT KINDS...HOW IS THIS HAPPENING...?!
IT'S TOO LATE... BUT I CAN AT LEAST SAVE ADAM.
IF I USE THE SOLDIER I PUT BESIDE HIM...!
GRAB
H-HUNTER SUNG?
WE'RE GOING TO MOVE TO ANOTHER LOCATION.

TMP
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, SHADOW?
HUNTER SUNG, I—

FLICKER
FWOOOOOOOOM

ARGH...!!
DAMN IT... I SHOULD'VE KNOWN.
THE SHADOW ARMY WILL GROW STRONGER THE LONGER THE WAR DRAGS ON...
...SO IT MAKES SENSE FOR OUR ENEMY TO MINIMIZE THE BATTLEFIELD AND FOCUS THEIR ATTACKS ON A SINGLE POINT.
THE MONARCHS FAKED US OUT BY OPENING ALL EIGHT GATES AT ONCE...
...AND CONCENTRATING THEIR ENTIRE FORCE AT THE GATE FARTHEST FROM ME.
IF I TRANSFER THERE, IT WILL BE FULL-BLOWN WAR...

MY PLAN TO BUY SOME TIME IS UP IN SMOKE.
I MADE AN AWFUL MISTAKE.
<Hunter Sung...>
H-HUNTER SUNG, HUNTER LIU...CANADA HAS BEEN...
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
THE HEARTBEATS OF LIVING CREATURES.
WHOOSH
THEIR SCREAMS.

THE SOUNDS OF THOSE CREATURES BEING DESTROYED.
IT IS MUSIC TO MY EARS.

OUR PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE.

DESTROY EVERYTHING!

WHOOOOM
THAT IS OUR ONE AND ONLY MISSION!!

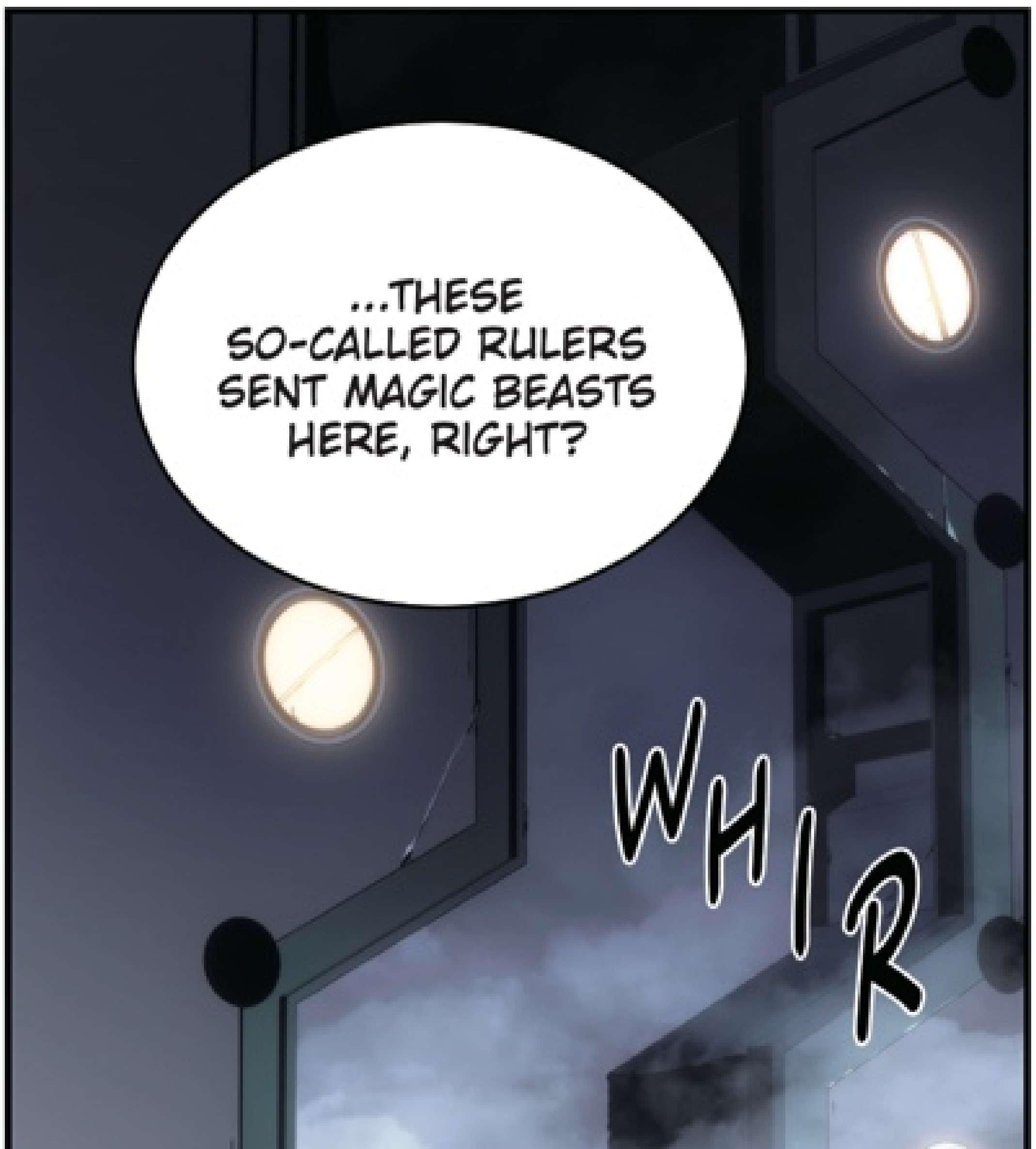
JACK DAN
Old No. 7
Tennessee
WHISKEY
<They're probably all dead.>
<Hunters, agents, journalists...>
<The dragons alone numbered in the hundreds...and they were followed by a tsunami of giants, wild animals, and bugs.>

<It's a disaster that no human has the power to stop.>
<They're all dead. We're finished!>
<Those magic beasts will reach the U.S. in no time...>
<No wonder Hunter Sung repeatedly emphasized evacuation.>
<It's the end of the world.>
<Yeah... It's over now.>
FSHHH
<H-Hunter Sung?>
SORRY TO COME UNANNOUNCED, BUT I'M LOOKING FOR SOMETHING.

A RUNE STONE.
PLEASE GIVE ME THE ONE KAMISH LEFT BEHIND.
......!!
AS YOU KNOW, THAT RUNE STONE IS THE PROPERTY OF THE HUNTER COMMAND CEN—
FREEZE
<Damn my habits. Never mind the Hunter Command Center!>
<The entire country is going to be decimated, so who cares about a hunk of rock?>
I'M SORRY. I THINK I'M STILL DRUNK.
SURE, I CAN DO THAT.
BUT MAY I ASK WHY YOU NEED IT?

I'M GOING TO USE IT FOR MY COUNTER-ATTACK.

YOU SAID...


...THESE SO-CALLED RULERS SENT MAGIC BEASTS HERE, RIGHT?
WHIR

THEN WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH RUNE STONES?
THEY'RE A GIFT OF SORTS TO HELP US HUNT MORE EFFICIENTLY.
THEY WANTED TO RELEASE MANA INTO THIS WORLD THROUGH VIOLENT CLASHES BETWEEN HUMANS AND MAGIC BEASTS.
THE SACRIFICE OF HUMANS IS AN UNFORTUNATE SIDE EFFECT, NOT THEIR ULTIMATE GOAL.
RUNE STONES SEAL A MAGIC BEAST'S POWER WHEN IT DIES.
THE RULERS MADE THEM OUT OF CONSIDERATION FOR THE HUMANS' PLIGHT.
CAN...CAN YOU REALLY STOP THOSE CREATURES WITH THIS?
I HAVE TO AT LEAST TRY.
COULD I ASK YOU FOR ONE MORE FAVOR?

<I wasn't expecting to receive visitors at this time.>

<You...>
<You are not the person I met before.>

<I previously saw the darkness deep inside you...>
<...but now you are the darkness itself.>

I'M THE SAME PERSON.
THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT THE DARKNESS AND I HAVE NOW BECOME ONE.
YOU SAID YOU COULD SEE INTO THE FUTURE.
THEN COULD YOU PLEASE LOOK INTO MINE?
<......>

SLIDE
<All right.>
<You...>
<...Are you really...>
DRIP
SQUEEZE

<...going to shoulder this by yourself?>
<How... how could one person bear such a heavy burden...?>
<Are you planning to save everyone and everything with your sacrifice?>
IT'S GOOD TO HEAR I'LL GET THAT FAR.
<Good?! No one will remember you. You will fight a lonely war!>
FSHH
MY APOLOGIES FOR THE SUDDEN VISIT AND FOR ASKING SUCH A HUGE FAVOR.
<Hunter Sung!!>

FSHH
TAP
IT'S ME.

Jinwoo?
Is that really you?
YEAH, SORRY. I'VE BEEN BUSY.
THAT'S OKAY. IT'S BEEN HECTIC FOR ME TOO.
Right. We haven't been able to see each other.
I'll see you next time.
YEAH.
Jinwoo?
YES?

PROMISE ME...
...THAT YOU'LL COME AND SEE ME.
OKAY.
I PROMISE.
SQUEEZE
IT'S TIME TO GET GOING.
YES, SIR!

THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATIONS OF ASIA, THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATIONS OF EUROPE, THE TEMPORARY UNITED GUILD OF AFRICA, AND THE UNITED STATES EMERGENCY MEASURES FEDERATION—

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF HUNTERS WERE HEADING TO THE BATTLEGROUND.

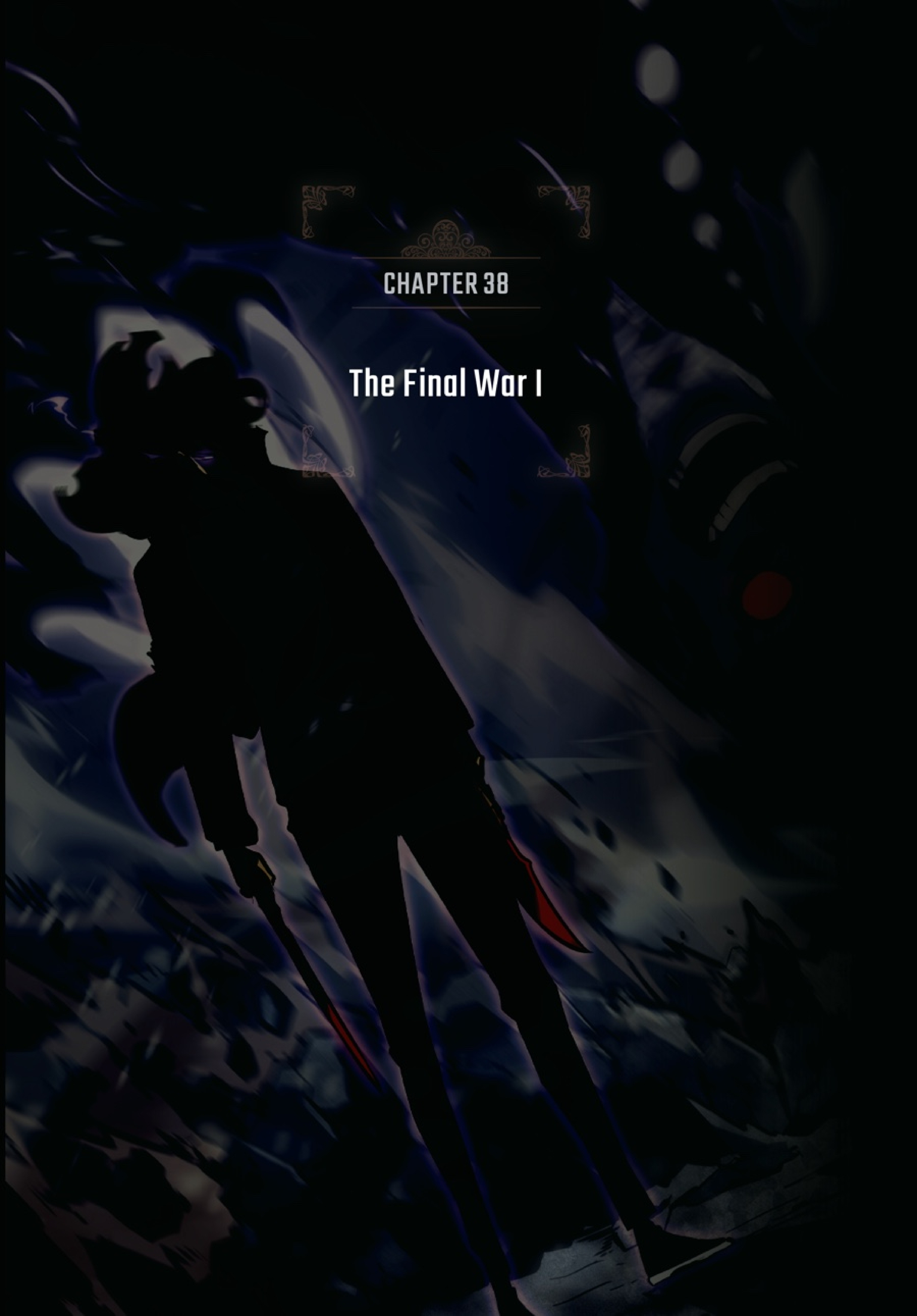
I AM RIGHT HERE!
SHF
WHOOM

SHHHHHWP
FLA
SH

TENS OF MILLIONS OF YOUR KIND ARE ALREADY DEAD.
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO CONTINUE TO HIDE?

I'M COMING FOR YOU.

Solo Leveling


CHAPTER 38
The Final War I

HE'S BEEN QUIET SINCE THAT FIRST DAY.
WHAT IS HE UP TO?
OF COURSE, IT WOULD BE SUICIDAL TO ATTACK WITH JUST OVER ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND SOLDIERS...
...WHEN THE COMBINED FORCES OF THE WORLD OF CHAOS BOAST AN ARMY OF TEN MILLION.
DID HE RUN OFF TO THE BOTTOM OF THE ABYSS—

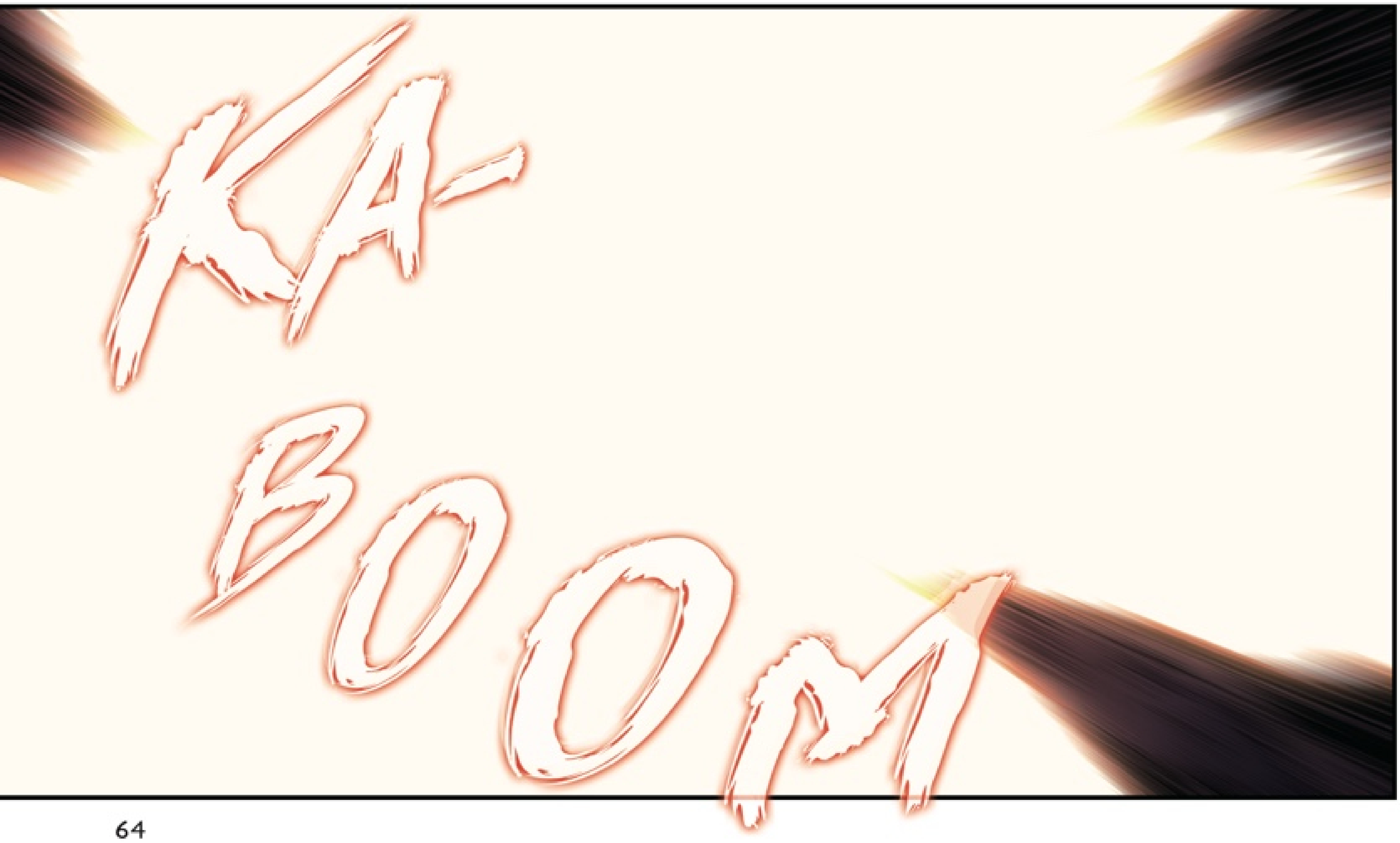
WHOOOSH
<Target was successfully hit.>
BOOOM
KRA-KOOM-KOOM-KOOM

<It's hard to see, but...>
<...I think it worked this time.>
FWOOSH
<TH- THAT'S...!!>
SHWP

DUN

HOW BORING.

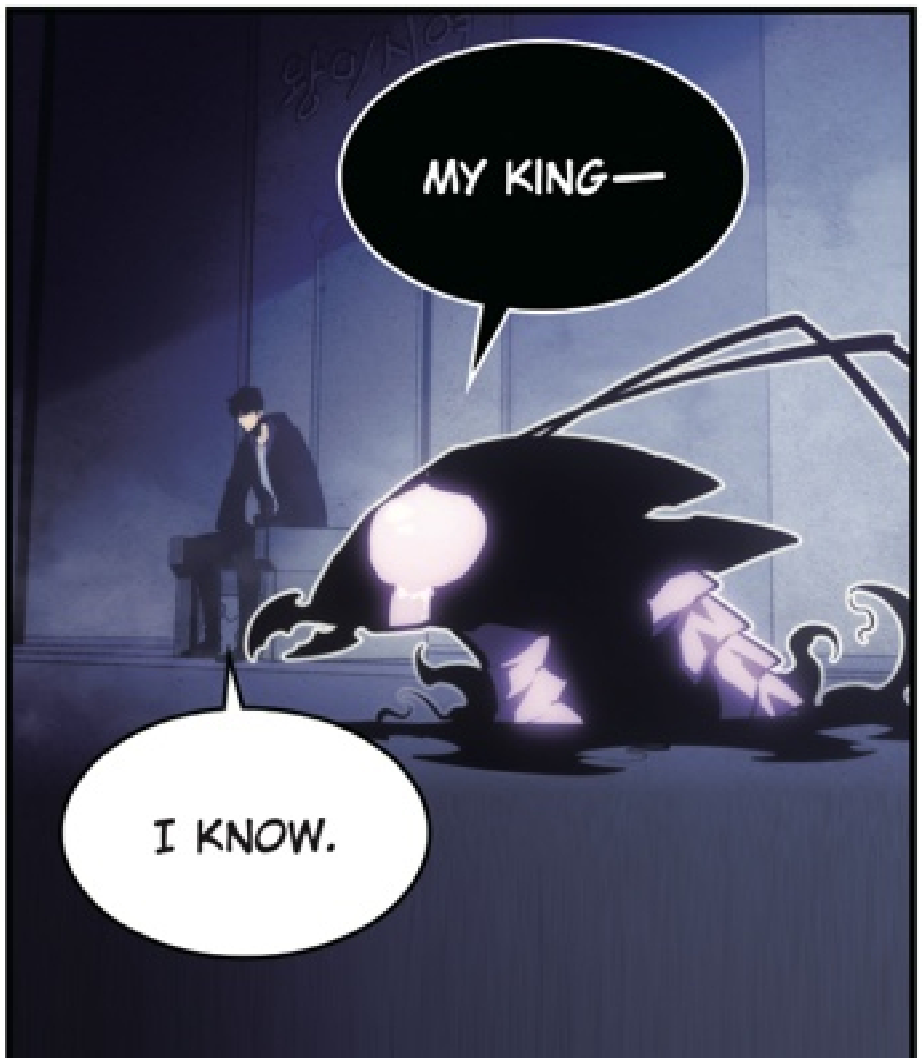
GROAR!


KA-BOOM

GLANCE

MY KING

THANKS, BERU.
PFFT!


MY KING—
I KNOW.

IT IS TOO DANGEROUS, MY LORD.

I AGREE, SIRE.

I KNOW YOU'RE CONCERNED FOR MY SAFETY.
MY KING
BUT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU JUST HAVE TO GO FOR IT DESPITE THE RISKS.

ASHBORN...
...THE PREVIOUS SHADOW MONARCH... HE SAID HE LIKED THIS SIDE OF ME.

...IF HE WERE IN THIS VERY SITUATION...
...WHAT WOULD HE HAVE DONE?

ASHBORN...
...WOULD HAVE DONE WHAT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO DO.

AH......
HEH!

I SEE...
INDEED...
...THE RESEMBLANCE.

WHUD
WHUD
WHUD
I WILL BE WITH YOU UNTIL THE END, MY LORD.
ALL RIGHT, THEN.
SHF

TMP
TMP
SHOULDN'T YOU CONTACT YOUR FAMILY, MY LORD?
NO.
IF I HEAR THEIR VOICES NOW...
CLENCH

Shadow
...I DON'T THINK I COULD GO THROUGH WITH IT.
SHATTER
LET'S DO THIS.

WHOOSH
RUMBLE

GRAH!

CRUNCH

KA-BOOM
THUMP

DRIP DRIP
SKR
AAH!

SLAM
GRAB
<Die, you bastards!!>
BA-BA-BA-BANG

KA-PING
PING
KA-PING
PING
<Damn it...>
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK

WHOOSH
NGH!
<......?>

SHF

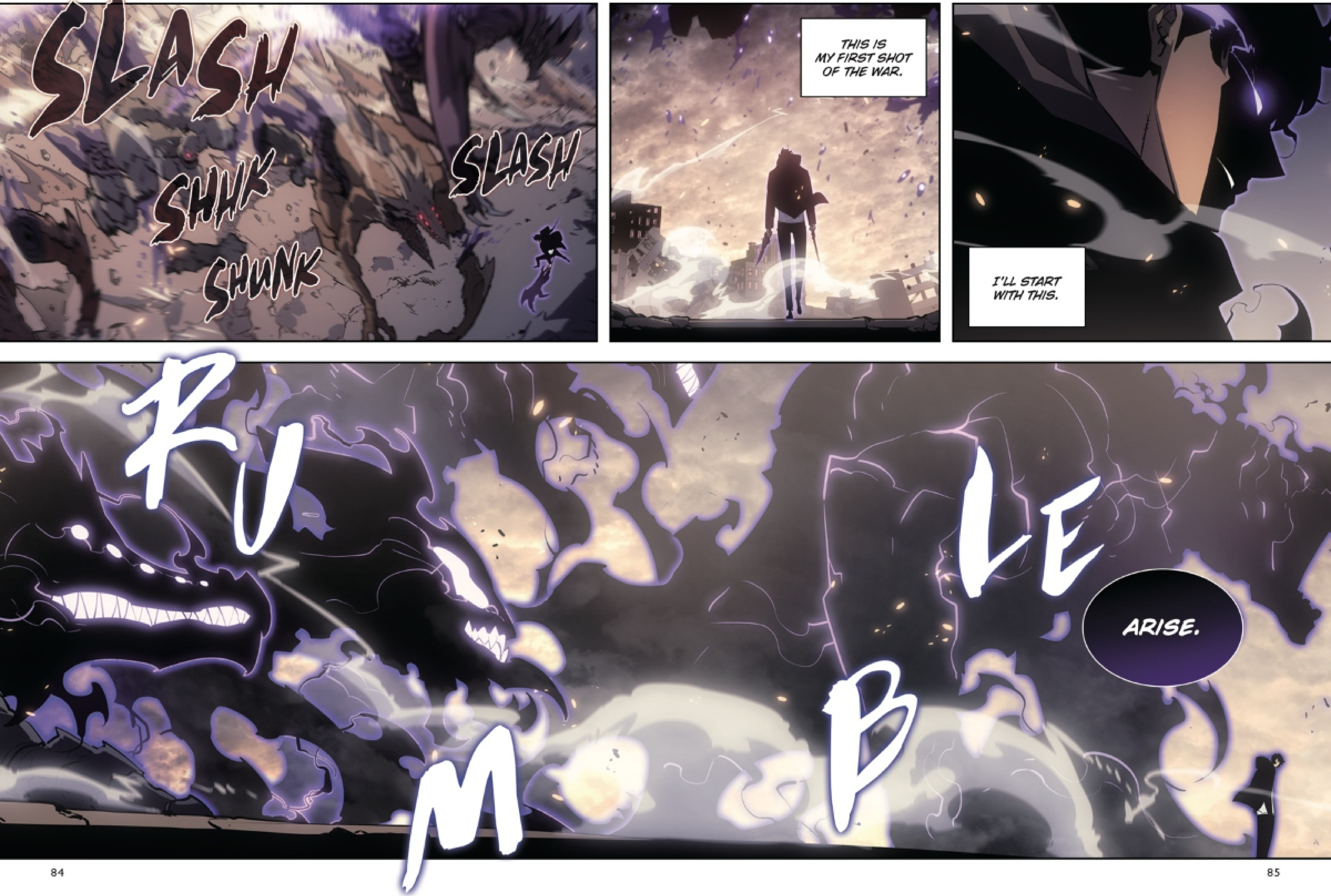
<Whoa!>
<H-Hunter Sung?>

GO.
<Sorry...?>

<Hunter
Sung!!>

WHOOSH

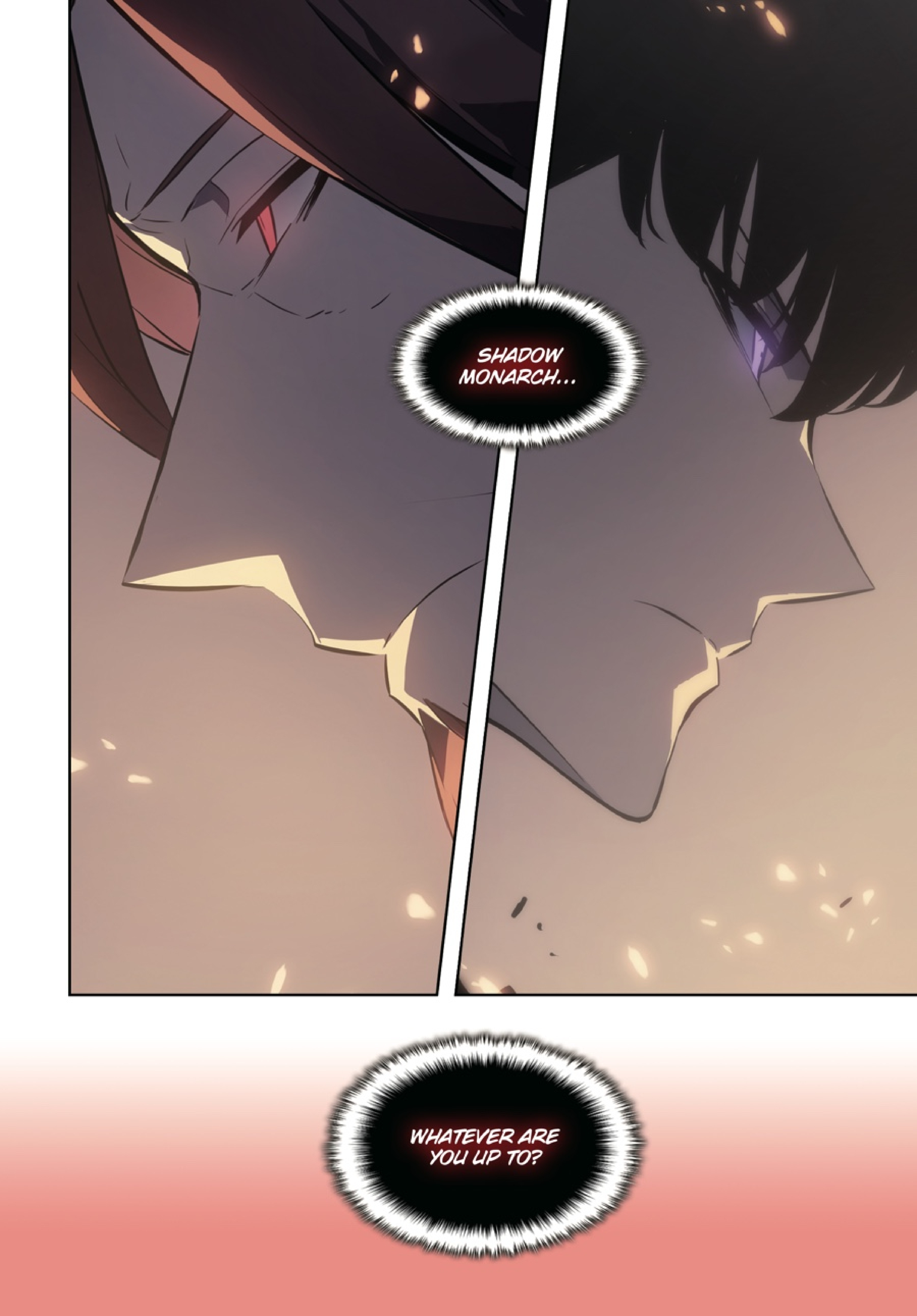
RULER'S AUTHORITY.
FWSH
FLASH

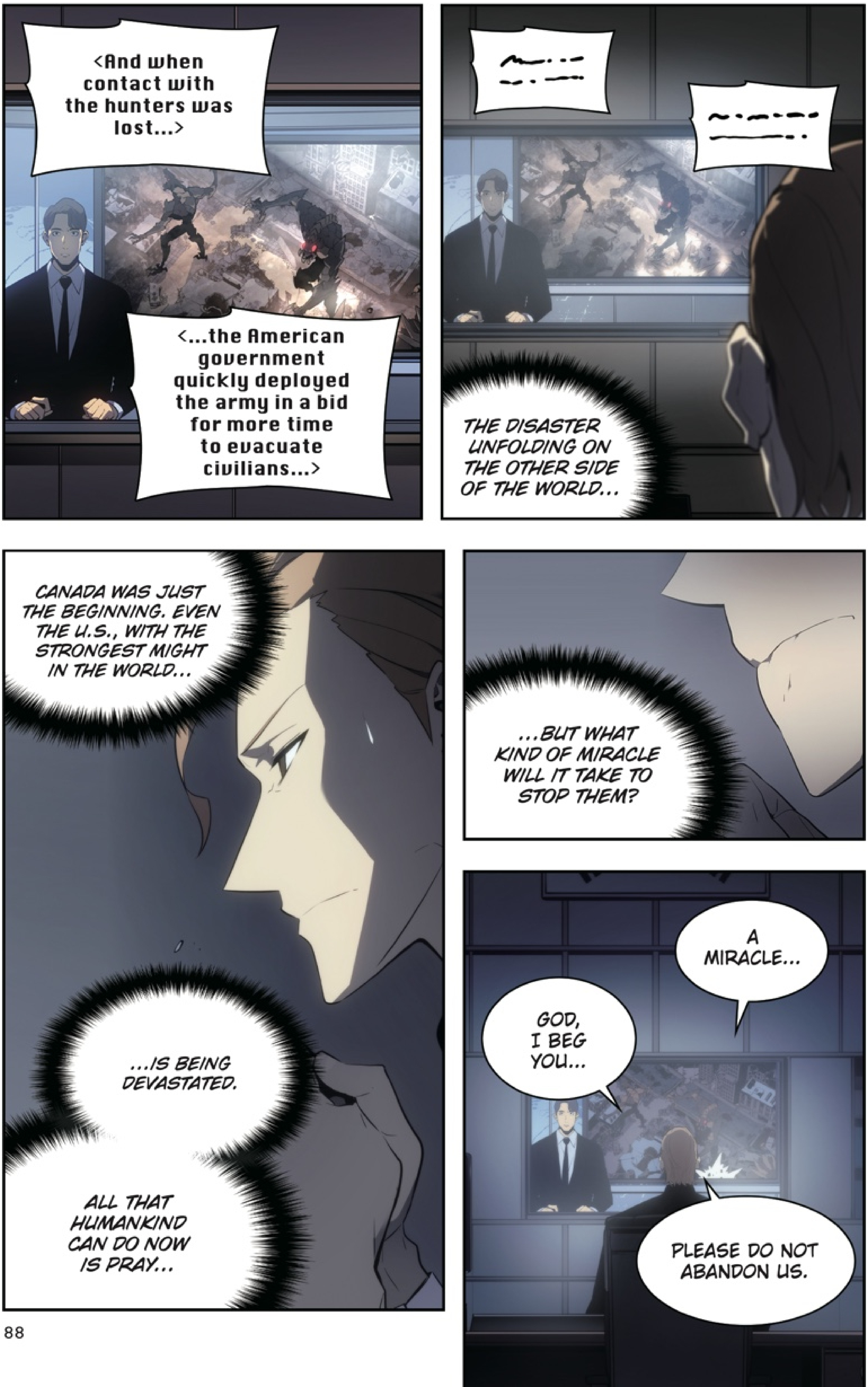

SLASH
SHHK
SHUNK
SLASH
THIS IS MY FIRST SHOT OF THE WAR.
I'LL START WITH THIS.
RU
M
B
LE
ARISE.

THE SHADOW MONARCH HAS APPEARED AT THE EASTERN END.

SHOULDN'T WE DIRECT THE ENTIRETY OF OUR FORCES TO ATTACK HIM RIGHT NOW?
I CANNOT SENSE THE ARMY OF THE DEAD WITH HIM.
THE SHADOW MONARCH HAS LIKELY DISPERSED HIS SOLDIERS.

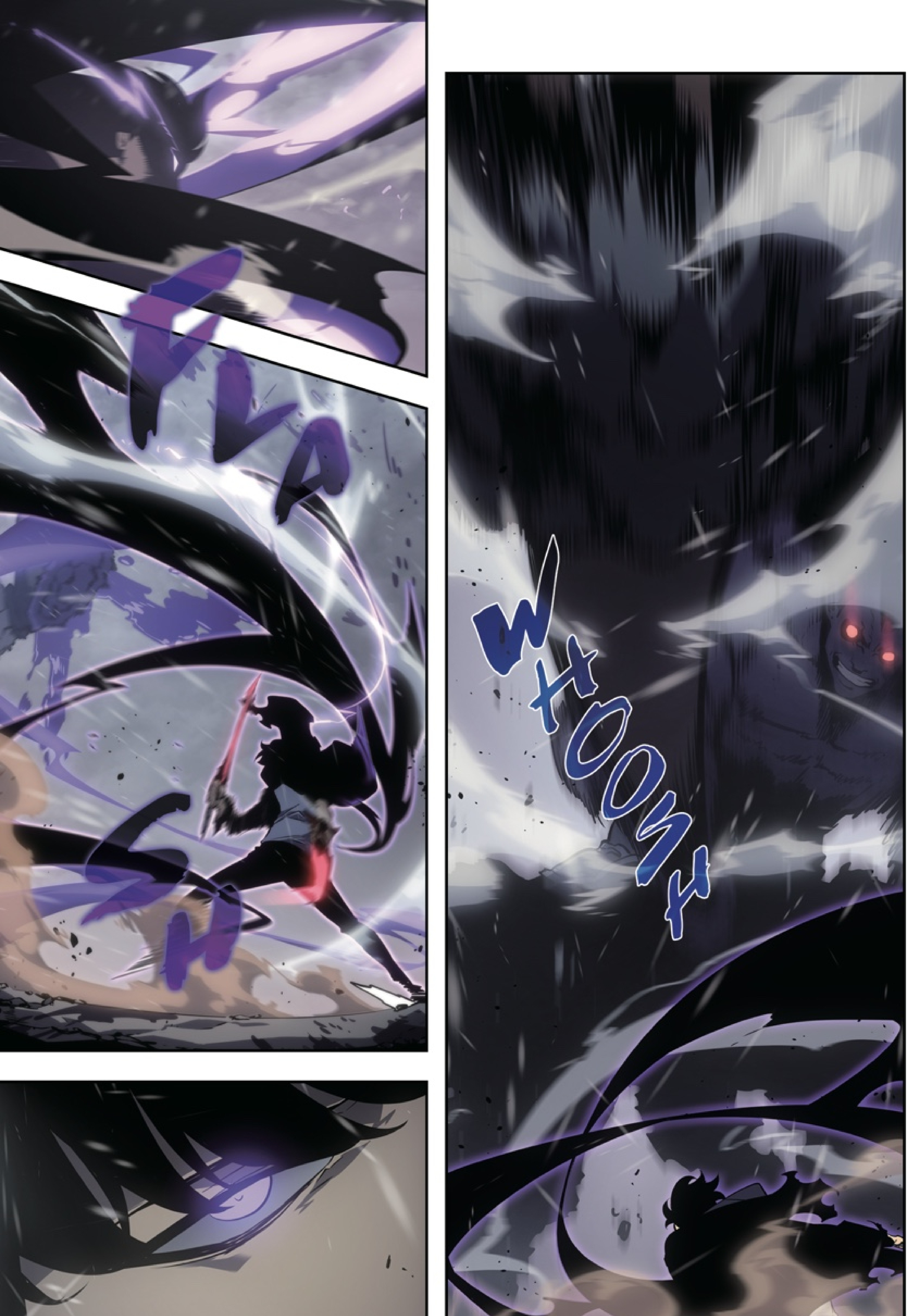
IS THE SHADOW MONARCH THINKING TO ABSORB OUR SOLDIERS BY ENTERING THE BATTLEFIELD BY HIMSELF?
HE IS TRYING TO AVOID A HEAD-TO-HEAD FIGHT TO BUY SOME TIME.


SHADOW MONARCH...
WHATEVER ARE YOU UP TO?



<And when contact with the hunters was lost...>
<...the American government quickly deployed the army in a bid for more time to evacuate civilians...>
THE DISASTER UNFOLDING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD...
CANADA WAS JUST THE BEGINNING. EVEN THE U.S., WITH THE STRONGEST MIGHT IN THE WORLD...
...IS BEING DEVASTATED.
ALL THAT HUMANKIND CAN DO NOW IS PRAY...
...BUT WHAT KIND OF MIRACLE WILL IT TAKE TO STOP THEM?
A MIRACLE...
GOD, I BEG YOU...
PLEASE DO NOT ABANDON US.

HUNDREDS OF NEW SHADOW SOLDIERS JOINED THE ARMY.
THE BATTLEFIELD WAS COATED IN BLACK SHADOWS...
...LIKE A HUGE TIDAL WAVE SWALLOWING EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH.
SLASH
SHHK
ROAAAAR!

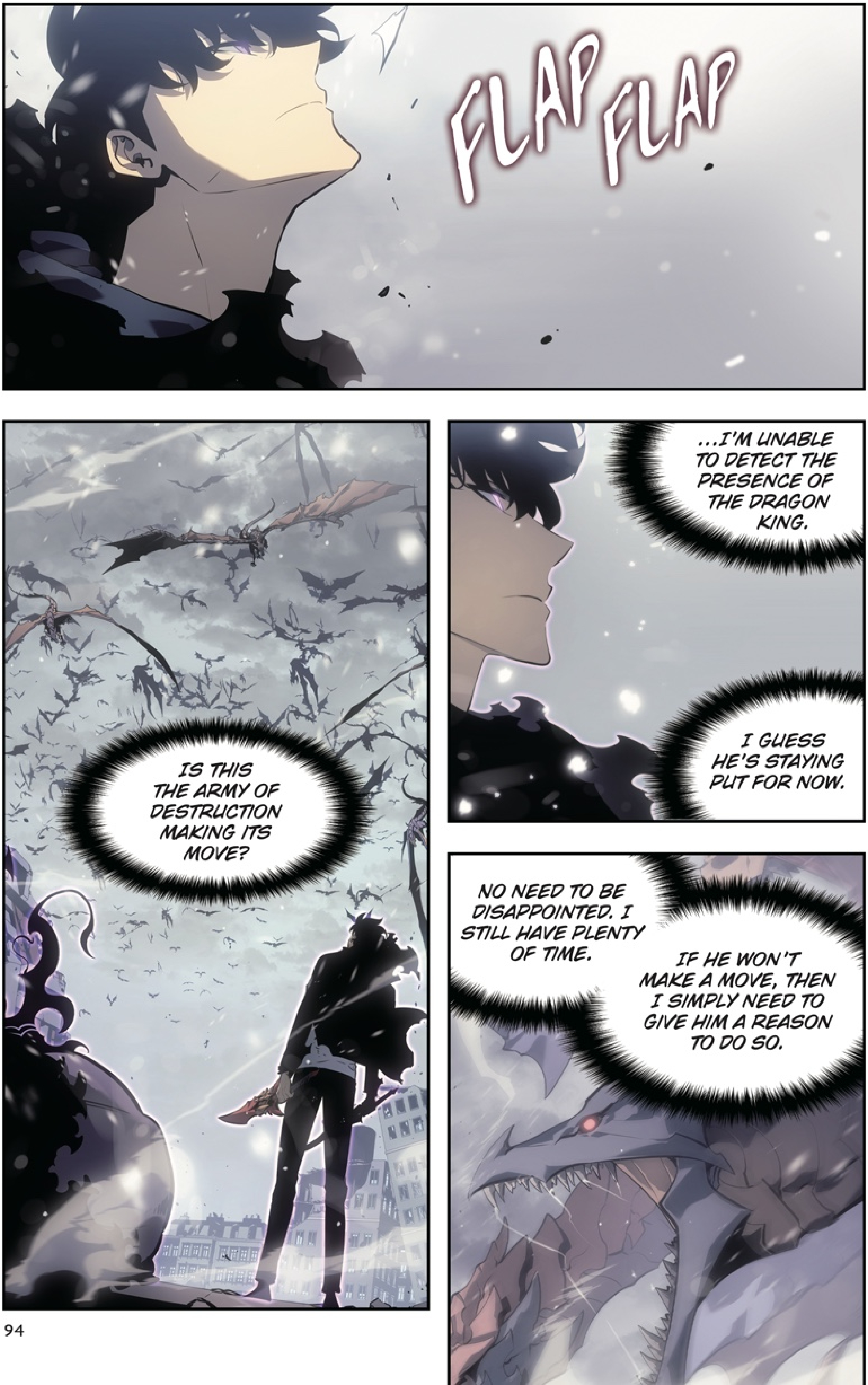

WHOOSH

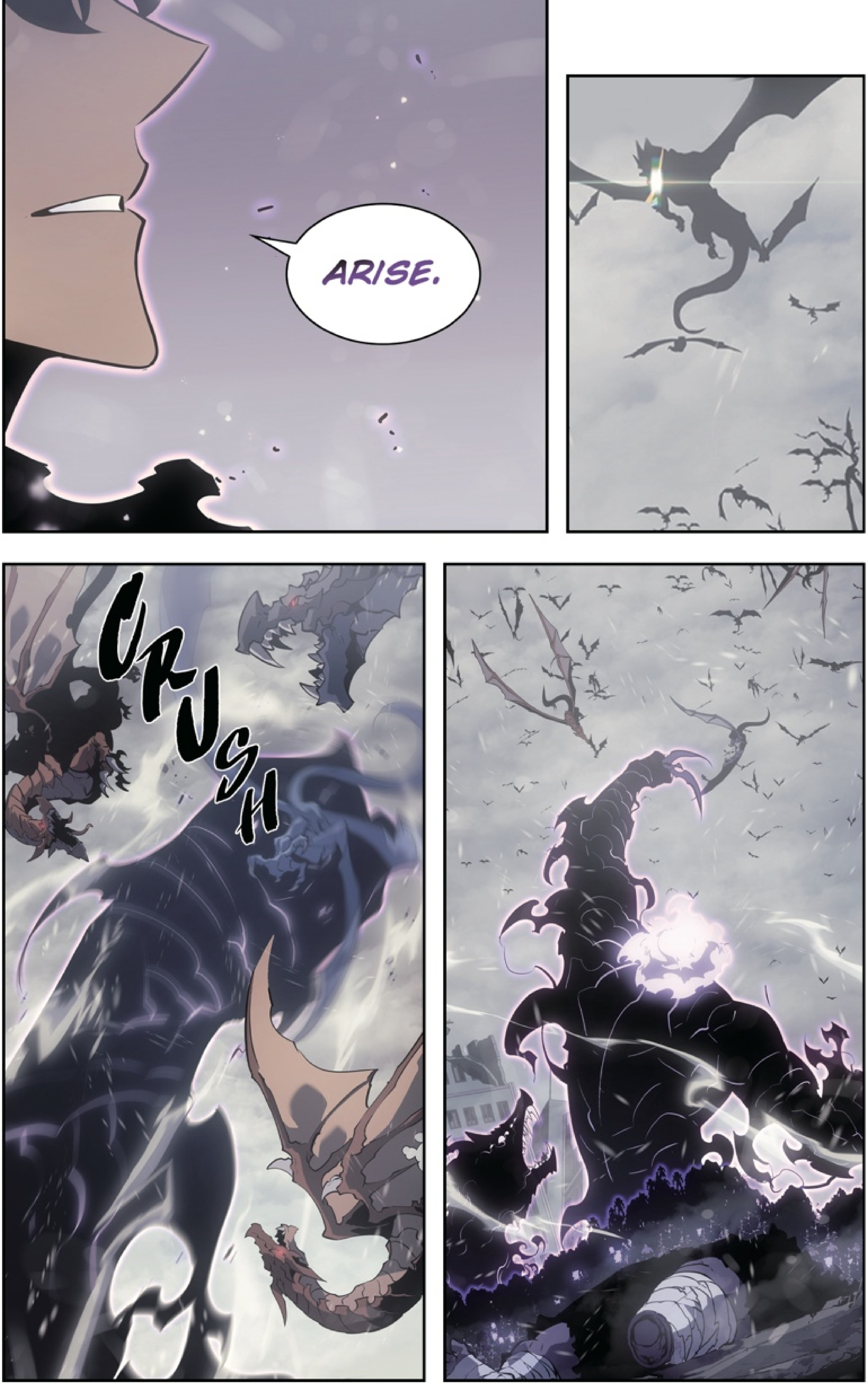
CRASH

LEAP

SLASH

VOOM
THUD
KRAH!
CRUNCH
WHUD


FLAP FLAP
IS THIS THE ARMY OF DESTRUCTION MAKING ITS MOVE?
...I'M UNABLE TO DETECT THE PRESENCE OF THE DRAGON KING.
I GUESS HE'S STAYING PUT FOR NOW.
NO NEED TO BE DISAPPOINTED. I STILL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME.
IF HE WON'T MAKE A MOVE, THEN I SIMPLY NEED TO GIVE HIM A REASON TO DO SO.


ARISE.
CRUSH

UROAR!

KA-BOOOM

HOW DARE YOU CHALLENGE THE GREAT DRAGON KING WITH MERE PUPPETS CREATED FROM MANA?!
I, THE LOYAL SERVANT OF THE DRAGON KING, WILL KILL YOU!

YOU TALK TOO MUCH.
WHOOSH

SLASH
...THE SHADOW MONARCH'S POWER IS GETTING STRONGER.
WE SHALL STRIKE.
TRANSFIGURATION MONARCH, STAY HERE AND PREPARE FOR ANY SUDDEN ATTACKS FROM THE SHADOW ARMY.
AS YOU WISH.
THE KING OF THE DEAD IS MINE.

BA-
BA-
BANG
BA-
BA-
BA-
BANG
<Fire at will!!>
BA-
BA-
BA-
BA-
<We can at least slow them down if we hit their arms or legs!>
BA-
BANG
<We're awaiting backup from the hunters!>
CHOMP
SPLATTER

RAAAH!
KA-POW
TUMBLE
<These are all creatures I've dealt with in dungeons.>

<It's the Scavenger Guild!!>
<They may have numbers on their side, but this is a piece of cake for me.>
<And Thomas! Thomas Andre is here!!>
<The problem is...>
TMP
AH, YOU'RE THAT WEAK VESSEL...
...WHO WAS ALMOST KILLED BY THE FANG MONARCH.

I AM THE KING OF MONSTROUS HUMANOIDS, THE IRON BODY MONARCH.
YOU KNOW I CAN END YOU WITH A SNAP OF MY FINGERS, DON'T YOU?
WILL YOU STILL TRY TO STOP US?
<Maybe?>
<I do so hate things that are difficult.>
VWOOOM
IT HAS BEEN A LONG WHILE...
FSHHH

...KING OF MONSTROUS HUMANOIDS.
WHY IS THE SHADOW ARMY HERE?!
WERE YOU HIDING UNDER THE HUMAN'S SHADOW WHILE CONCEALING YOUR PRESENCE...?!
...I'VE BEEN HAD.
I MUST LET THE DRAGON KING KNOW.
......?!
I CAN'T CONTACT HIM.

COULD IT BE...?
CRACKLE
THIS IS NOT A STRATEGY OF THE SHADOW MONARCH, LET ALONE HIS SOLDIERS.
THE ARMY OF THE DEAD ALWAYS SQUARELY CONFRONTED THEIR ENEMIES AND ANNOUNCED THEIR IMPENDING DOOM.
GRIT

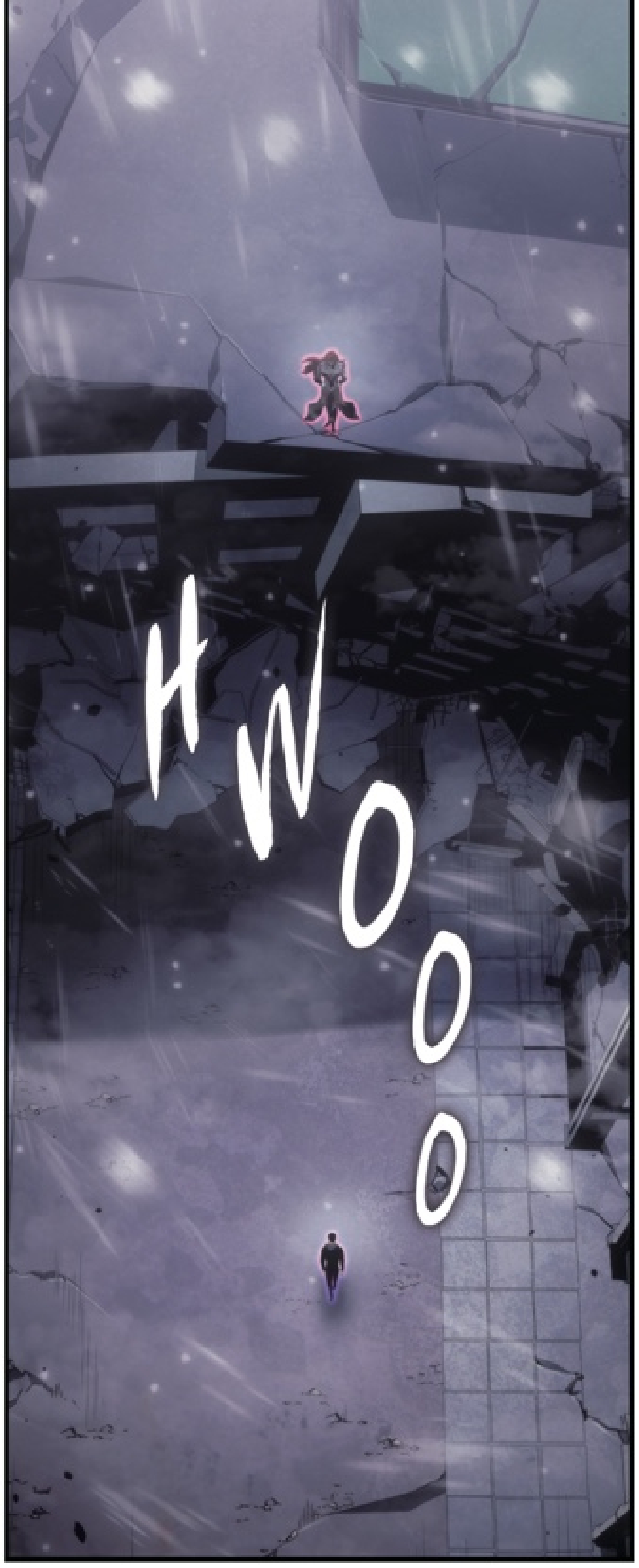
THIS IS... HOW HUMANS OPERATE.
HE IS NOT WORTHY OF BEING A MONARCH!

TAKE. BACK. THOSE. WORDS.
RUMBLE
INSULTING MY LIEGE IS AN UNFORGIVABLE CRIME.

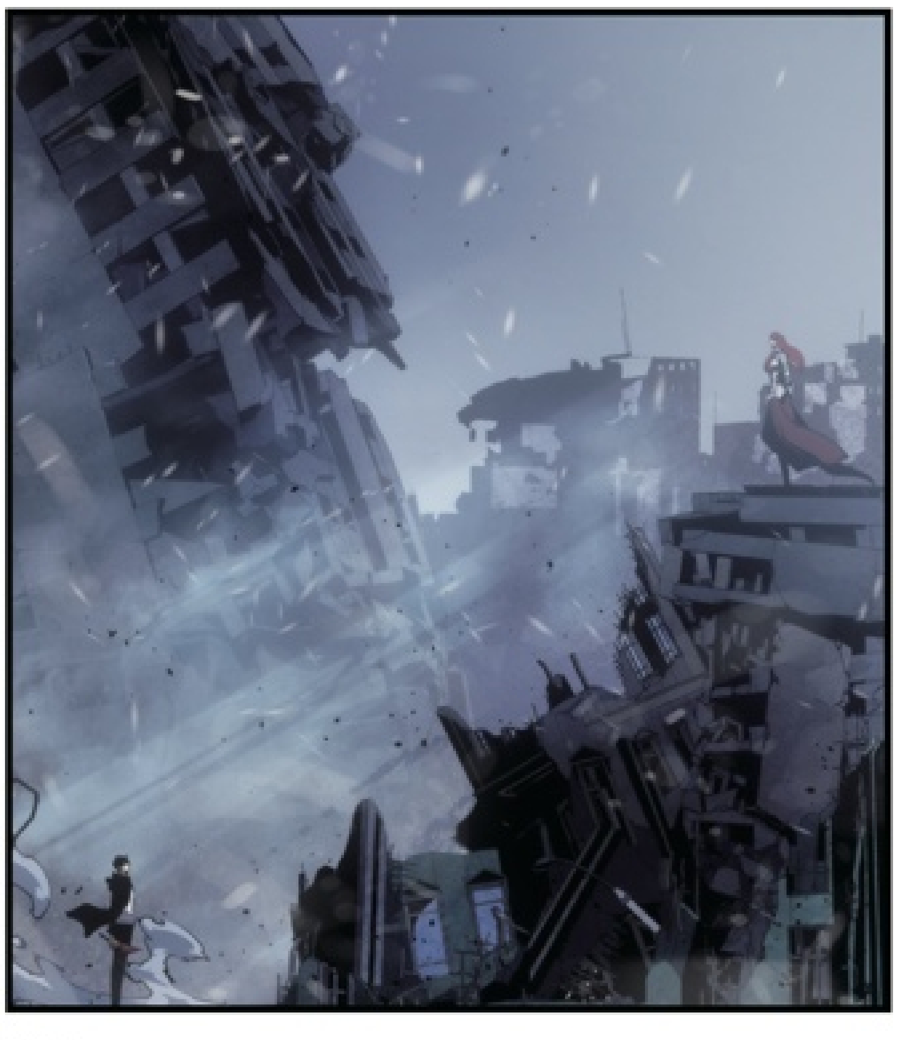
HOW DARE A MERE SOLDIER GET IN A MONARCH'S WAY?!
SKRAAA-AAAH!!

WHOOOOM

WHIIIISH


HWOOO

I CANNOT CONTACT THE IRON BODY MONARCH...HAS HE BETRAYED ME?
OR IS THIS YOUR LITTLE TRICK, SHADOW MONARCH? NO MATTER THE CASE...



FLICKER

...I MUST KILL THIS BASTARD!
FWOOM

WHOOSH

KA-BOOOM
FSHHHH
HWOOOO

FLAP
COME OUT.

GROAAR!

KRIK

FLASH

SHHK
SHHK
SHHK

THUD
<Dealing with a giant is easy as long as we're not in water.>
<Magic power is shaking the whole continent.>
<All throughout the land, hundreds of thousands of hunters are locked in battle with the endless waves of magic beasts.>
<I can also sense a particularly intense wave of magic power...It's making my whole body tingle.>
RUMBLE
<I guess they've finally started too.>

KRIIIK
SWEEED

KA-BOOOM
PHEW...
ARE THOSE ALL THE PATHETIC SOLDIERS YOU HAVE?
TO THINK YOU'D SEND YOUR MAIN FORCE TO FACE THE IRON BODY MONARCH AND TRY TO FIGHT AGAINST ME WITH MERELY A FEW THOUSAND SOLDIERS.

IS HE TRYING TO RUN AWAY?
I WILL NOT LET HIM.
LEAP
?!

...I SEE. HE HAS ALREADY ABSORBED THE IRON MONARCH'S ARMY.
GLANCE
DEFEATING THEM WITH THE MAIN FORCE, AND THEN LURING ME IN...
IT IS NOT A BAD PLAN.

HOWEVER, IT'S QUITE ABSURD, SHADOW MONARCH.
VWOOOM

YOU PROBABLY THOUGHT I WOULD COME ALONE, BUT...
...YOU WERE WRONG.

I CAN BRING THROUGH AS MANY OF MY SOLDIERS AS I DESIRE...
...USING THE GATES THAT YOGMUNT, THE MONARCH OF TRANSFORMATION, GENERATES.
YOUR MISSTEP WILL LEAD TO YOUR DEMISE.
YOUR PLAN IS COMPLETELY DASHED.
YOU'VE LOST.

HEH!

RELEASE.
FSHH

WHY DID YOU SEND YOUR SOLDIERS BACK?
HAVE YOU GIVEN UP ALREADY?

WELL...IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE, GIVEN THAT YOU'VE NOW REALIZED...
...THE ABSOLUTE POWER DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MY ARMY AND YOURS.

FLASH
ARE YOU...?!
YOU IMPUDENT ...!

THE SKILL JINWOO ACQUIRED FROM KAMISH'S RUNE STONE IS ONE OF THE MOST LETHAL ABILITIES DRAGONS CAN USE.
IT IMMOBILIZES BOTH FRIEND AND FOE ALIKE.
A MIGHTY ROAR THAT MAKES ANY WEAKER BEING FALL INTO CRIPPLING DESPAIR—
GRAAAAH!!
DRAGON'S FEAR

ROAR
HE AFFECTED NOT ONLY THE DRAGONS, BUT YOGMUNT AS WELL...?

YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.
GRAB
FSHH
WAS HIS ENTIRE PLAN LEADING UP TO THIS...?

WHIIISH

FWISH

WHERE ARE WE...?
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD.

YOU HAD A BETTER CHANCE OF WINNING AN ALL-OUT BATTLE WITH THAT MANY SOLDIERS.
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THEY'D CONSUME TOO MUCH OF YOUR MANA.
IT WAS A FINE TACTIC TO BRING ME HERE.
IS THAT YOUR CASTLE?
......
THAT'S RIGHT.
SUCH A SQUALID STRUCTURE FOR THE SHADOW MONARCH.
IS THAT SO...?

WELL, IT'S ABOUT THE RIGHT SIZE FOR YOUR MAUSOLEUM.
ZZZZT
FLICKER
SO THIS IS A BATTLE TO SEE WHETHER I CAN LAST UNTIL MY SOLDIERS FIND ME.

RUMBLE

<The flames of war have engulfed the entire country.>
<All kinds of magic forces are churning and spreading throughout.>

<I can't believe that everything Hunter Jinwoo Sung said was true...>
<What are we going to—?>
<Hunter Sung isn't the only hunter.>
<Hunters around the world, from E-ranks to S-ranks, have joined the fight.>
<E-rank hunters are only a little stronger than ordinary people.>
<They know very well that they aren't much help in this war.>

<Same with the C- and D-rank hunters.>
<If an E-rank hunter can kill one magic beast, a D-rank hunter can kill three...>
<...and a C-rank hunter can kill ten, but that's about it.>
<An S-rank hunter is no exception either.>
<They could each hunt a thousand magic beasts, but eventually...>
<...they will disappear and become stars in the sky.>

<However...>

<...as they become stars and form a line in the sky...>
<...it's very faint, but...>
<...I see the future.>

<You could also call it hope.>

THERE IS NEWS THAT HUNTER SUNG HAS SUCCESSFULLY DRAWN THE ENEMIES TO A DESERTED ISLAND NEAR JAPAN!
HUNTER SUNG ONCE TOLD ME THAT THERE WAS A BIG DESERTED ISLAND...
...WHERE A HUGE AMOUNT OF MAGIC POWER POURED IN WHEN THE GATE WITH GIANTS COLLAPSED.
THE DAMAGE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD WILL BE MINIMAL IF THEY FIGHT THERE, EVEN IF THEY USE THEIR FULL FORCE.
...HAS HE BEEN HIDING THERE UNTIL NOW FOR THAT REASON?

SHOULD WE HAVE HUNTERS ON STANDBY NEAR THE AREA JUST IN CASE?
AREN'T ALL THE HIGH-RANK HUNTERS, INCLUDING THE S-RANKS, IN THE U.S.?
WHO DO YOU PROPOSE TO SEND THERE?
ACTUALLY, E-RANKS WOULD BE PERFECT.
DID YOU KNOW THAT HUNTER SUNG WAS ONCE AN E-RANK HUNTER?
WHAT?
I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT...
ZOO OM

...AN E-RANK HUNTER CAN BECOME A HERO TOO.
FLAP
WHIRL
YANK

PULL
CRACK

VMMMM
FWOOSH
BAM

SHP
SHWP

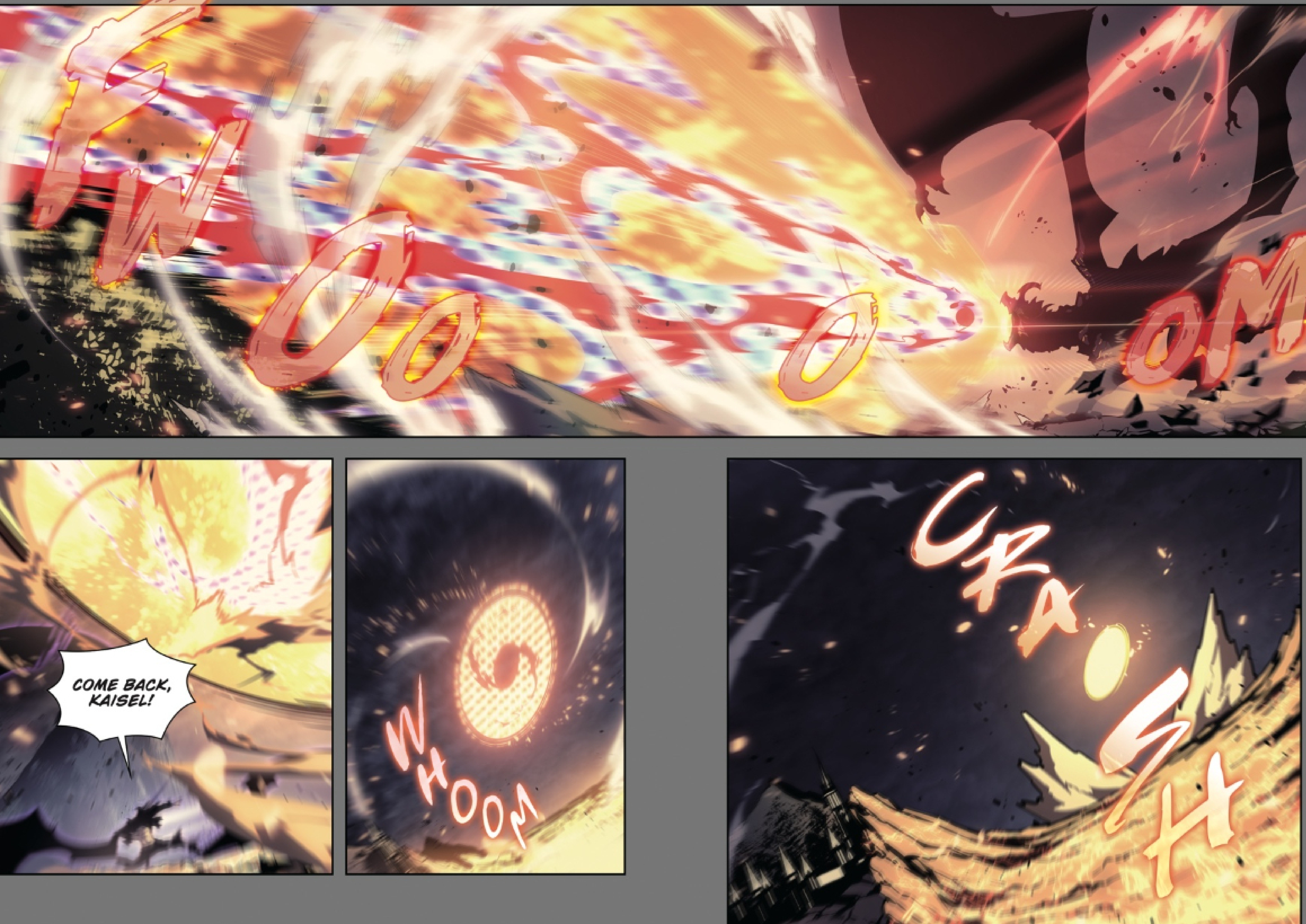
WHOOSH

KA-
BOOM
SLASH

KRA-KOOM
FSHHH
I THINK IT'S WORKING PRETTY WELL.

...HOW AMUSING.
FSHHH
I LOVE CRUSHING MY ENEMY WITH THE OVERWHELMING NUMBERS OF MY ARMY.
GLARE
BUT IT'S ENTERTAINING TO CORNER AN ENEMY IN THE OPPOSITE SITUATION AS WELL.
NOW, I'LL DEMONSTRATE THE REAL DEAL.
GRRAAAAH!
DRAGON'S FEAR

RAAAAH!
THE DRAGON'S FEAR OF A KING THAT RULES OVER DRAGONS.
I CAN'T CONTROL MY SOLDIERS LIKE THIS!
RELEASE!
GROAR!



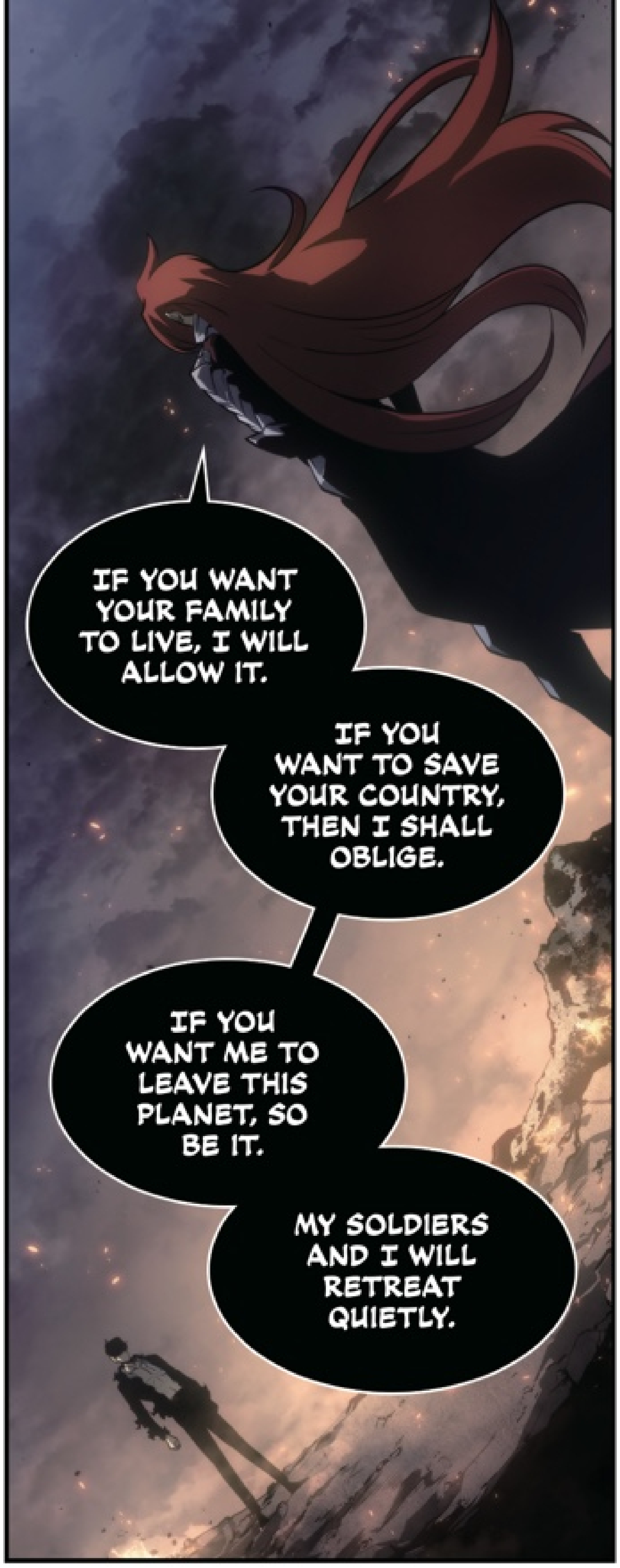
FWOOOOM
COME BACK, KAISEL!
WHOOM
CRASH

TUMBLE
HWIIIISH
THIS IS THE REAL THING.
THE AVATAR OF DESTRUCTION...
...BORN OF THE CONCENTRATION OF BLOOD, SCREAMS, MADNESS, AND RUIN. THE ONE NOT AFRAID OF HIS OWN DESTRUCTION FOR THE SAKE OF BATTLE.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE ONE BORN FOR WAR.

THAT IS ME— THE KING OF WILD DRAGONS AND THE MONARCH OF DESTRUCTION.
I AM ANTARES.
A HUGE AMOUNT OF MAGIC POWER WAS ABSORBED BY THIS LAND WHEN THE KING OF GIANTS DIED.
BUT IT STILL COULDN'T WITHSTAND THE DRAGON KING'S POWER...
FSHHH
EVEN IMMORTAL SOLDIERS WOULD BE OBLITERATED IF THEY WERE HIT BY HIS BREATH.
NO NEED TO BE NERVOUS, SHADOW MONARCH.

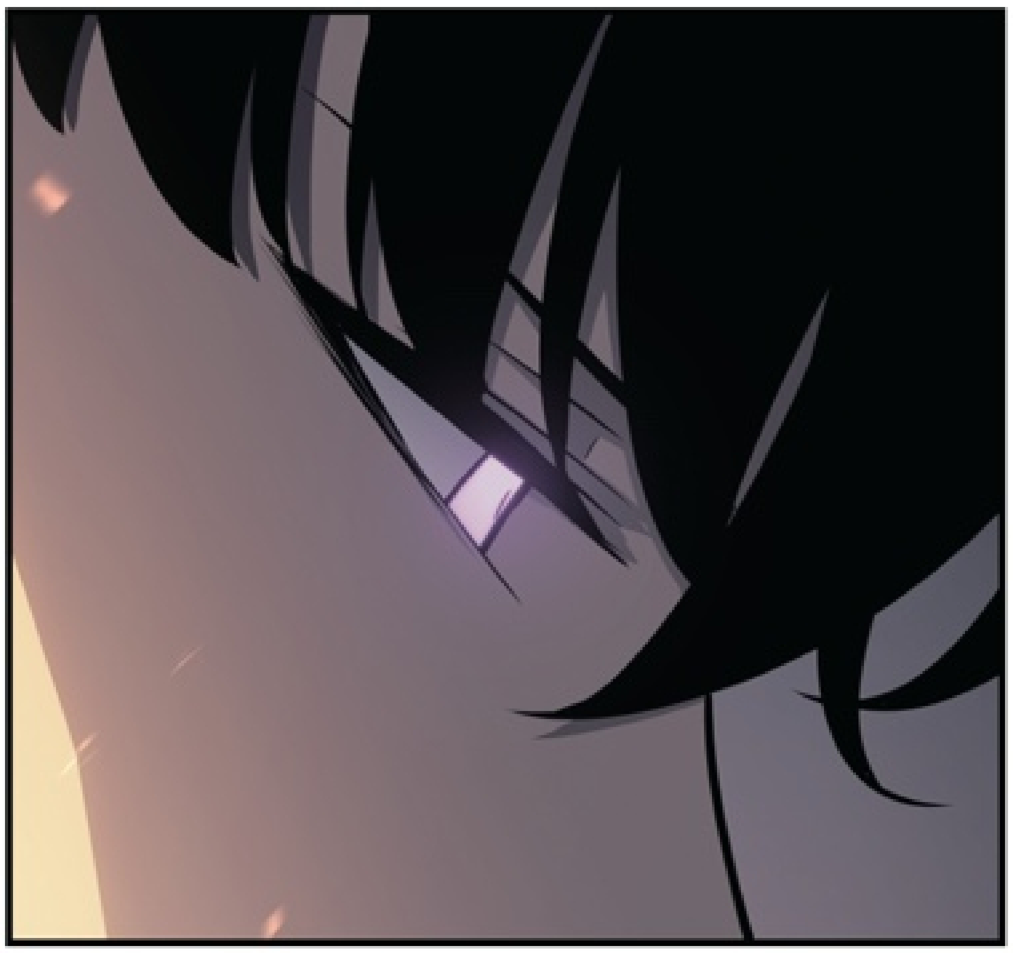
WHEN YOU GRABBED MY ARM, I COULD HAVE EASILY FREED MYSELF...
...BUT I WAS AMAZED THAT YOU MANAGED TO CORNER ME. SO I LET YOU TAKE ME ALONG.
I WANTED TO HAVE A QUIET DISCUSSION WITH YOU, MONARCH TO MONARCH.
SINCE YOU POSSESS ASHBORN'S MEMORIES, I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE...
...OUR REAL ENEMIES ARE NOT ON THIS LAND BUT RATHER LIE BEYOND THAT SKY.
THE ARMY OF THE RULERS.
THEIR ONE AND ONLY MISSION IN THIS WORLD IS TO ANNIHILATE THE MONARCHS, THOSE WHO WERE BORN OF DARKNESS.
NATURALLY, THE SHADOW MONARCH IS NO EXCEPTION.

I HAD PLANNED TO PREPARE TO FACE THE RULERS AFTER GETTING RID OF YOU...
...BUT I'VE CHANGED MY MIND AFTER WITNESSING HOW YOU FIGHT.
YOUR TALENTS DIFFER FROM ASHBORN'S...
...AND WITH YOU ON OUR SIDE, I SEE A GLORIOUS VICTORY AHEAD.


IF YOU WANT YOUR FAMILY TO LIVE, I WILL ALLOW IT.
IF YOU WANT TO SAVE YOUR COUNTRY, THEN I SHALL OBLIGE.
IF YOU WANT ME TO LEAVE THIS PLANET, SO BE IT.
MY SOLDIERS AND I WILL RETREAT QUIETLY.

YOU SHALL BE THE OWNER OF THIS LAND.
YOU SHOULD RULE THIS WHOLE PLANET RATHER THAN A TINY CASTLE ON A HILL.
YOU ARE WORTHY OF SUCH POWER.

SHF



ALL YOU HAVE TO DO...

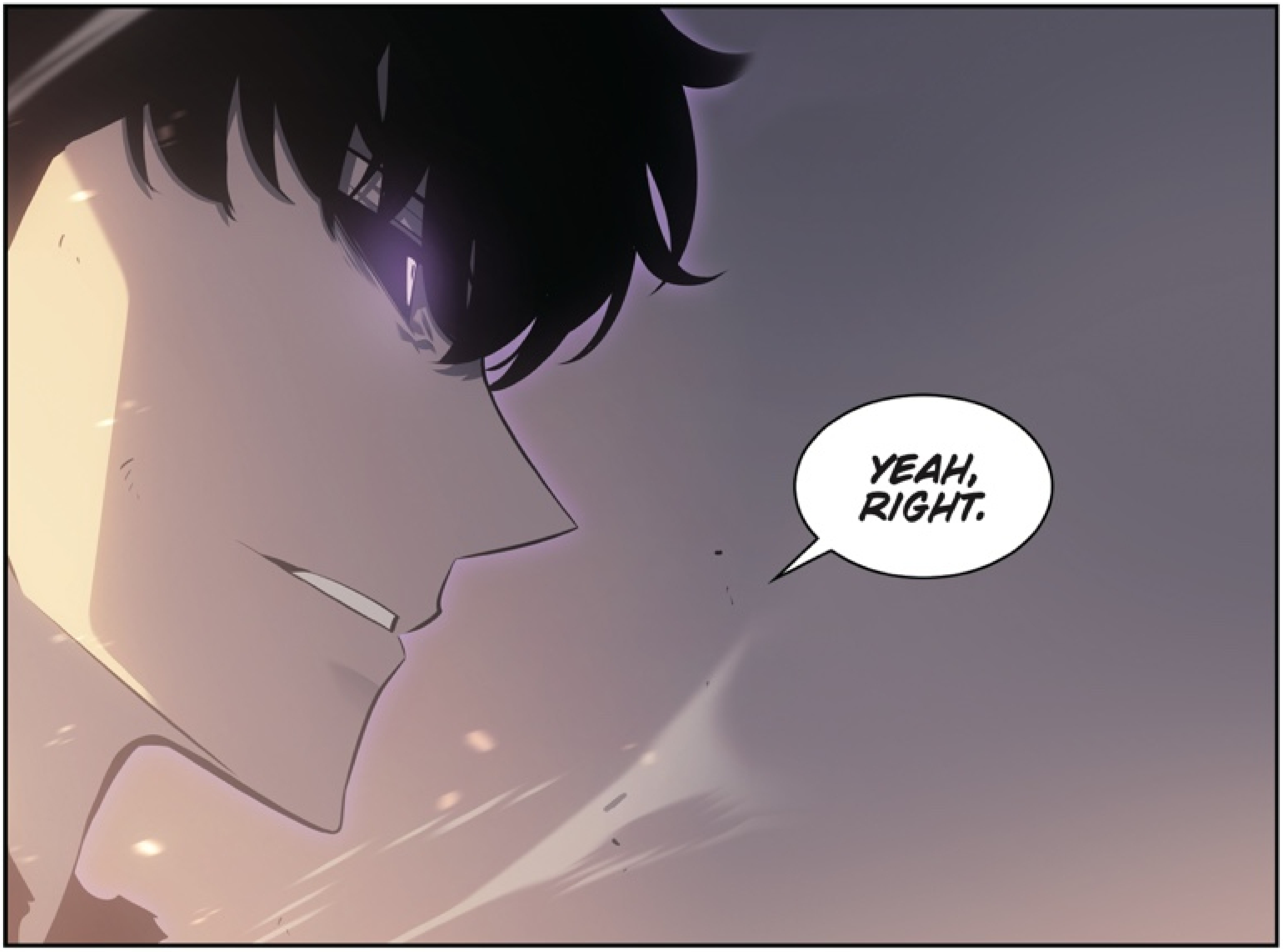
...IS TAKE MY HAND.

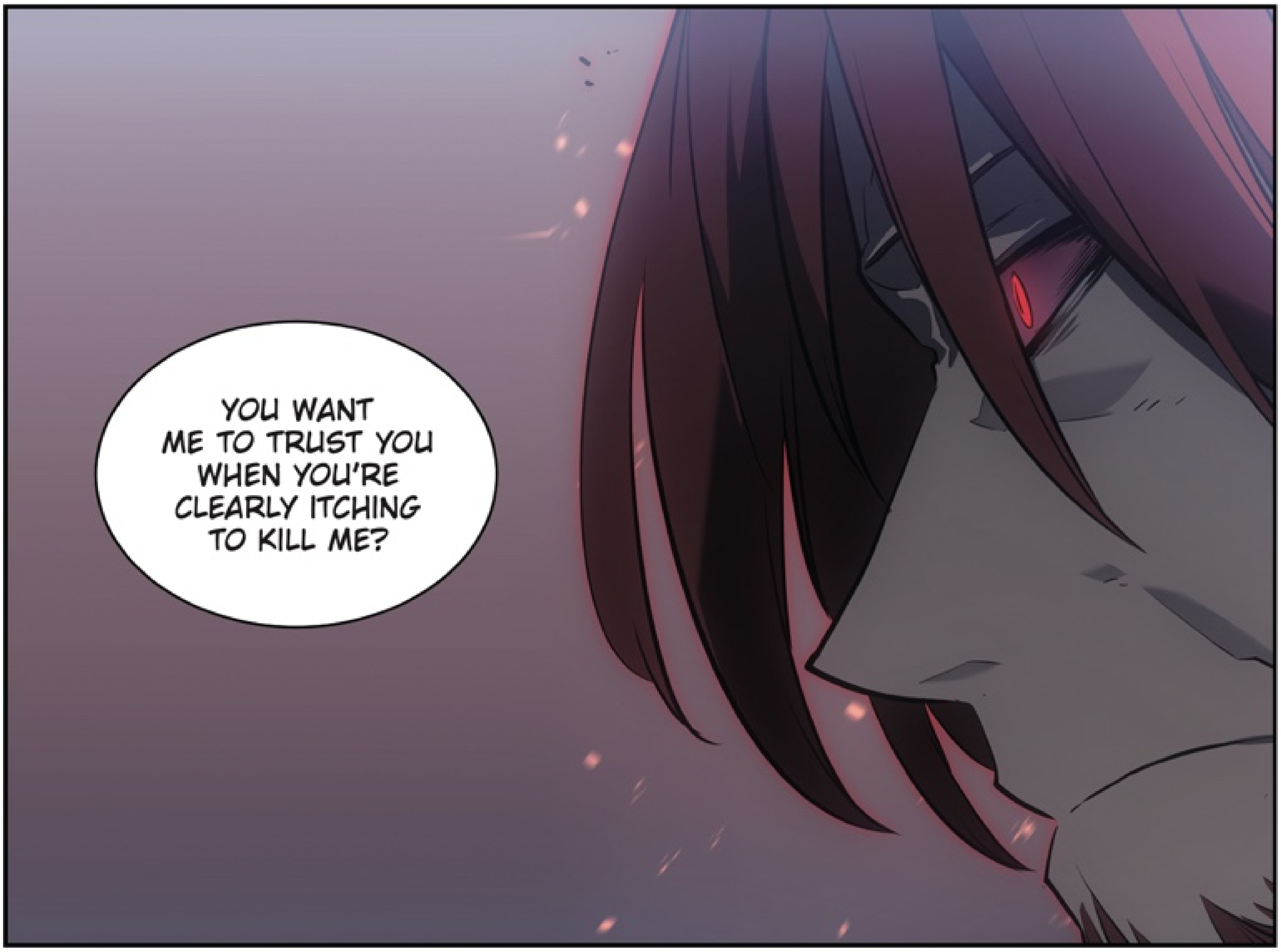
Solo Leveling

CHAPTER 39

The Final War II

IF YOU LEND YOUR STRENGTH TO DEFEAT THE RULERS, THEN YOU, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR COUNTRY...
...AND EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET WILL SEE PEACE AND FREEDOM.
WHAT SAY YOU, SHADOW MONARCH?
WILL YOU JOIN ME?
PFFT!


YEAH, RIGHT.


YOU WANT ME TO TRUST YOU WHEN YOU'RE CLEARLY ITCHING TO KILL ME?

HA-HA-HA...
RUMBLE
I SUPPOSE I COULDN'T HIDE IT FROM YOU. THAT WAS MY FINAL ACT OF MERCY.
FACE ME WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT, SHADOW MONARCH!

HWIP
WHOOSH

KAISEL!!
SLAM
SHWP
WHIRL
GRAH!!

ROOOOAR!
GROAR!
KAISEL, DIVE!
LEAP
ZZZZZK

SHHK
SLICE

SLICE

THMP
I DIDN'T EVEN MAKE A SCRATCH?
YOU CANNOT LEAVE ANY MARK ON ME WITH THAT.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, KAISEL.

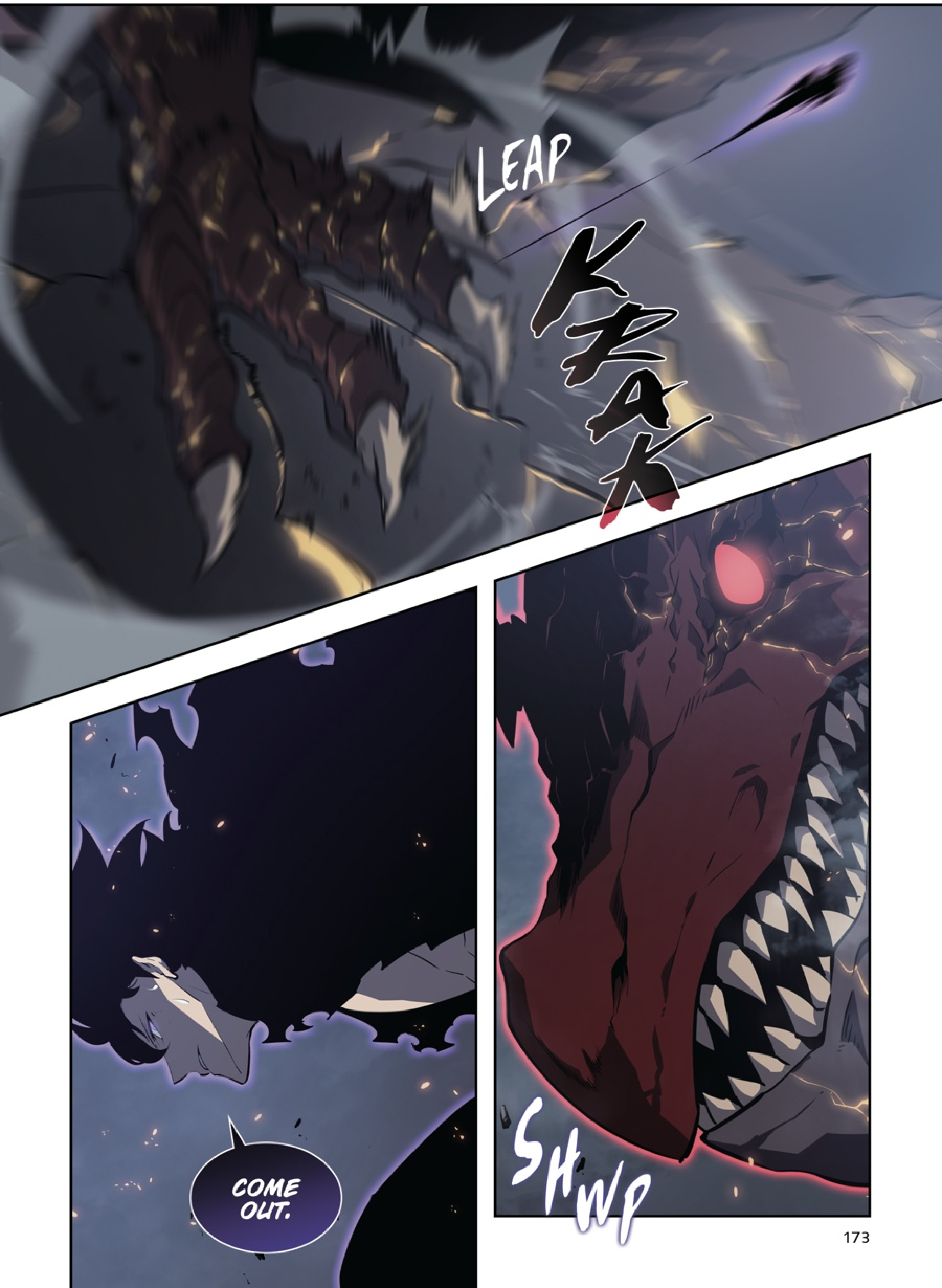
DRAGON'S FEAR
ZING
VMMM

WRAP
FLING
KAISEL!
SKIIID

KA-BOOOOM
FWOOSH
BAM

FSHHH
SPLASH
I'M SURE THIS WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH TO KILL HIM.
FSHHH
ZOOM
TMP

SIZZLE
ARGH...! HIS SCALES ARE LIKE LAVA.
SHUNK
SHUNK
WHOOSH


LEAP
KRAK
SHWP
COME OUT.

ROAR!!
GRAORR!!

CRUNCH

FWOOM

KA-
BAM

EVEN THE ANCIENT DRAGONS THAT BELLION COMMANDED CAN'T BURN HIM...?
FWOOO
HSOOO
THE DRAGON KING IS INCOMPARABLY STRONGER THAN ANY OTHER OPPONENT, BOTH DEFENSIVELY AND OFFENSIVELY.
THE STRATEGIES I'VE BEEN USING UNTIL NOW WON'T WORK.
I NEED SOMETHING...
...SOMETHING STRONGER.
FSHH
I NEED THE POWER TO KNOCK DOWN A MOUNTAIN PROTECTED BY IRON ARMOR WITH MY BARE HANDS.

WAIT A MINUTE—
IRON ARMOR?!
SHWAAAA

DU-
DUN

ARE YOU TRYING TO STOP ME WITH THESE LOWLY CREATURES—

WHAT? THE POWER OF DARKNESS IS BEING DRAWN TO HIM.
WHAT NEW TRICK IS THIS?!
...IRON ARMOR.
CRUSH IRON ARMOR WITH DARKNESS ITSELF.

MAKE THE BLACK ARMOR BIGGER...
...AND MORE DURABLE.
MAKE IT HUMONGOUS SO EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD LOOKS LACKING IN COMPARISON, INCLUDING MYSELF.

AN ASTRAL BODY? BUT THAT CAN'T BE.
SINCE THE SHADOW MONARCH WAS ORIGINALLY A FRAGMENT OF LUMINOSITY, HE HAS NO HIDDEN FORM...
SO HOW COULD HE GROW TO SUCH A SIZE?
COULD HE BE...?
IS HE SOMEHOW...ABLE TO CALL THE POWER OF DEATH TO THIS WORLD?

BUT HOW? HE USED TO BE AN ORDINARY HUMAN UNTIL NOT TOO LONG AGO...
WH
...SO HOW IS HE ABLE TO CONTROL IT SO WELL?
OOOOM
IS THIS...? IS THIS REALLY ME?
THIS IS THE SHADOW MONARCH'S TRUE POWER, BESTOWED BY ASHBORN...

WITHIN THIS ENLARGED FORM...
...ENDLESS POWER IS SURGING FORTH.

I SEE.
YOU HAVE SPENT MUCH TIME STRADDLING THE LINE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.
THIS HUMAN WAS FIGHTING A BATTLE OF HIS OWN LONG BEFORE HE EVEN MET ASHBORN—
FLICKER
A BATTLE FOR HIS LIFE.
SO THIS IS THE REASON...
...ASHBORN WAS ABLE TO TRANSFER THE ENTIRETY OF HIS POWER TO THIS MERE HUMAN.
AS I THOUGHT, HE IS FAR TOO DANGEROUS.
I MUST KILL HIM RIGHT HERE AND NOW... NO MATTER WHAT.

FWOOOSH
ZZT
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

K RA-
KOOM

ZZZT
WHIIIISH

CRACK

STOMP

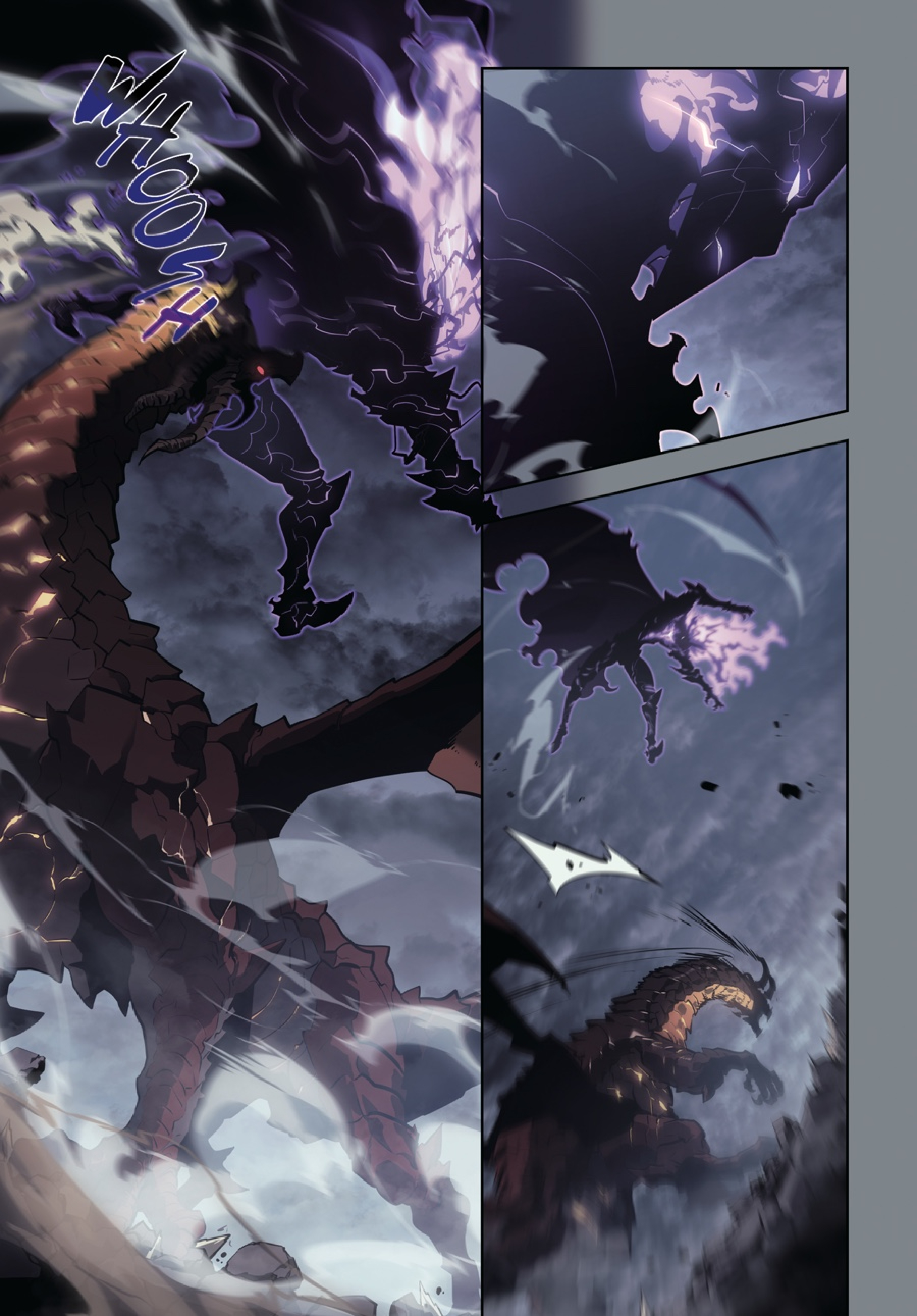
SLAM

RUM
BLE

WHOOSH

GRAB

POW
STAGGER
GAPE
CRUNCH


WHOOSH

CRASH
CRUMBLE

ZING
FWOOSH

SKID
STOMP
FWOOM

WHOOSH

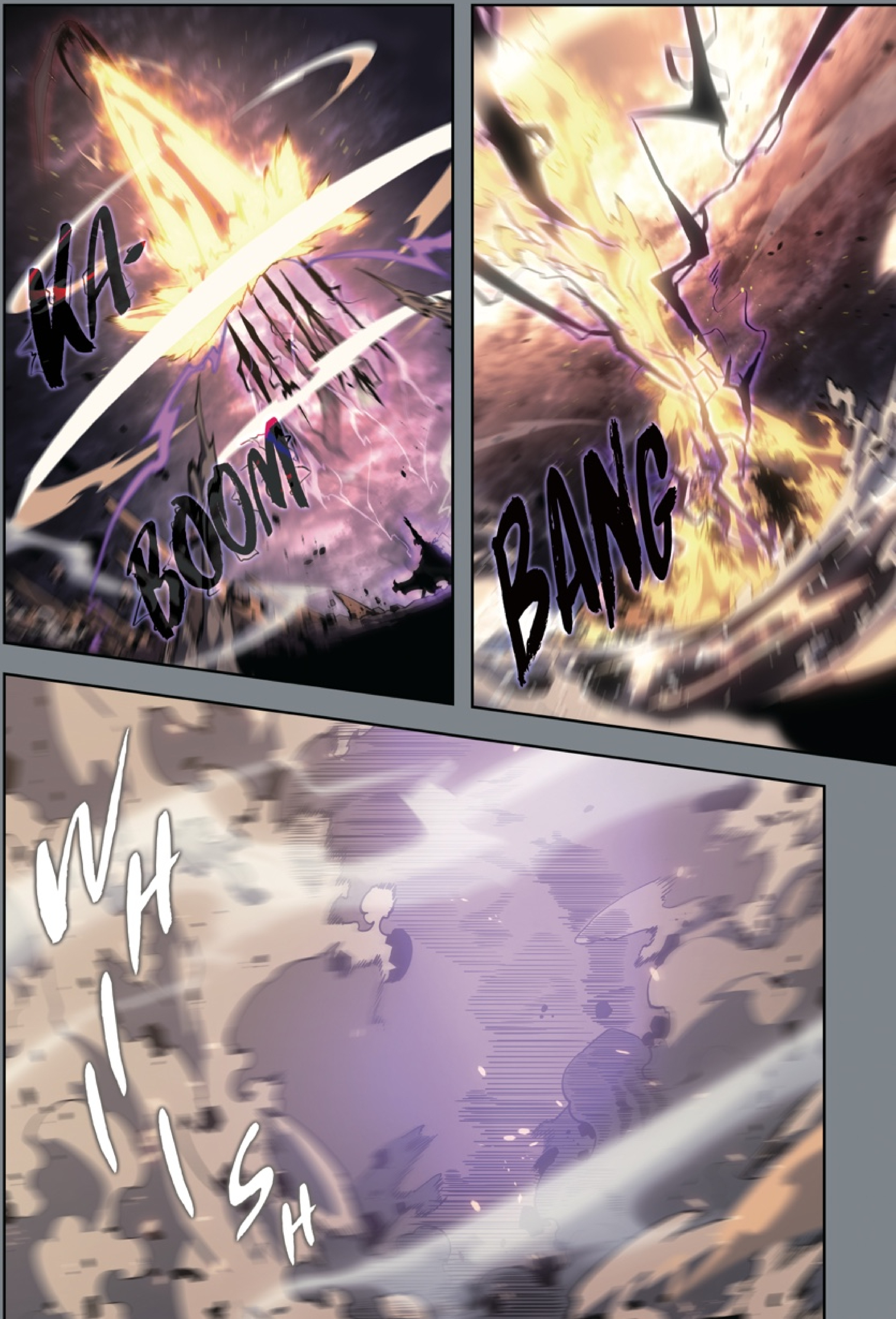
SHWP

HWIP
SLAM
FLING
FLAP
THUD

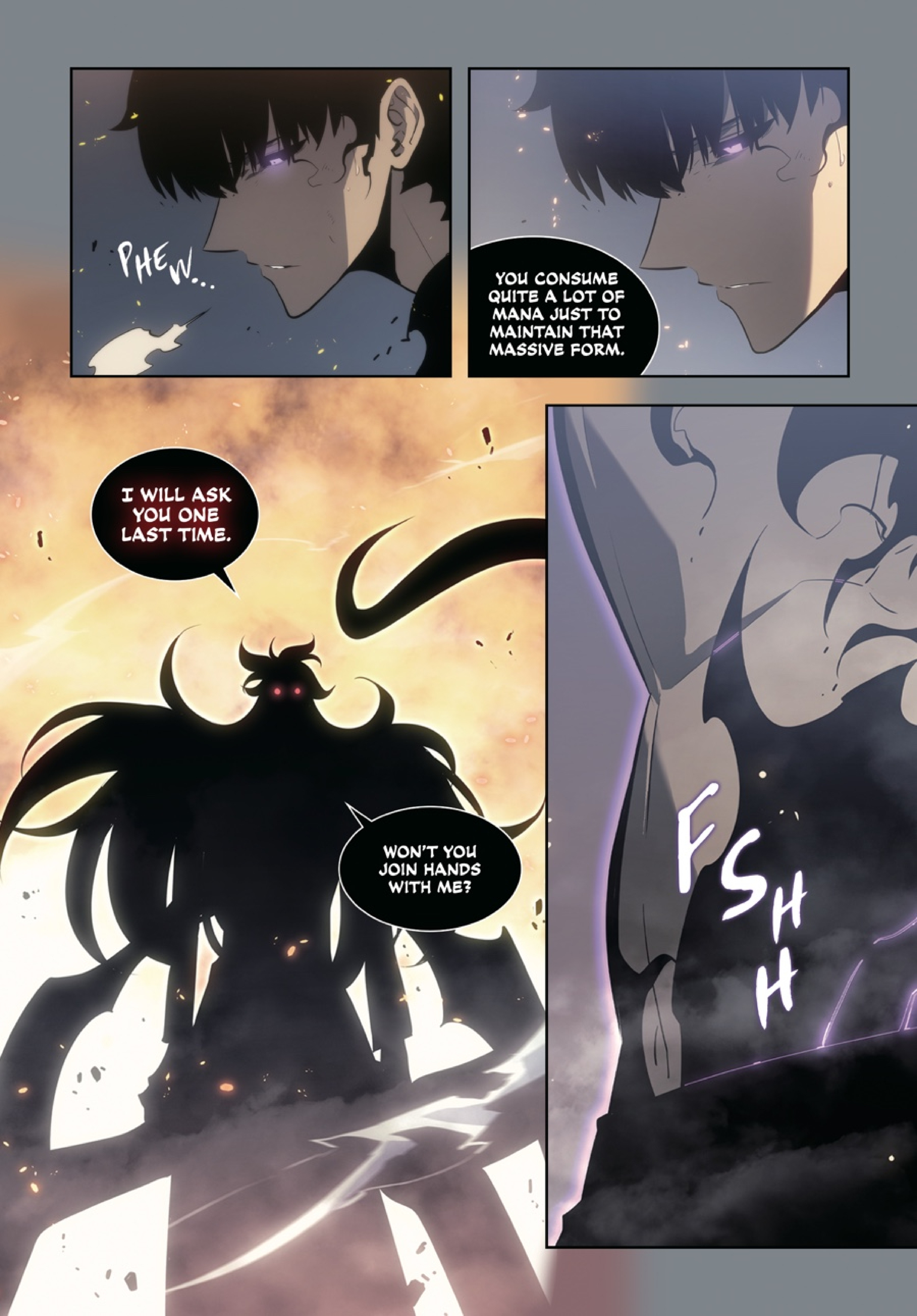
VMM
VMM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

ZO OM
PIERCE
ZZZT
ZZZZT

SHP
SHP
SHP
SHP
FWOOOM


KA-BOOM
BANG
WHIIISH

RUMBLE
SHATTER
THUD

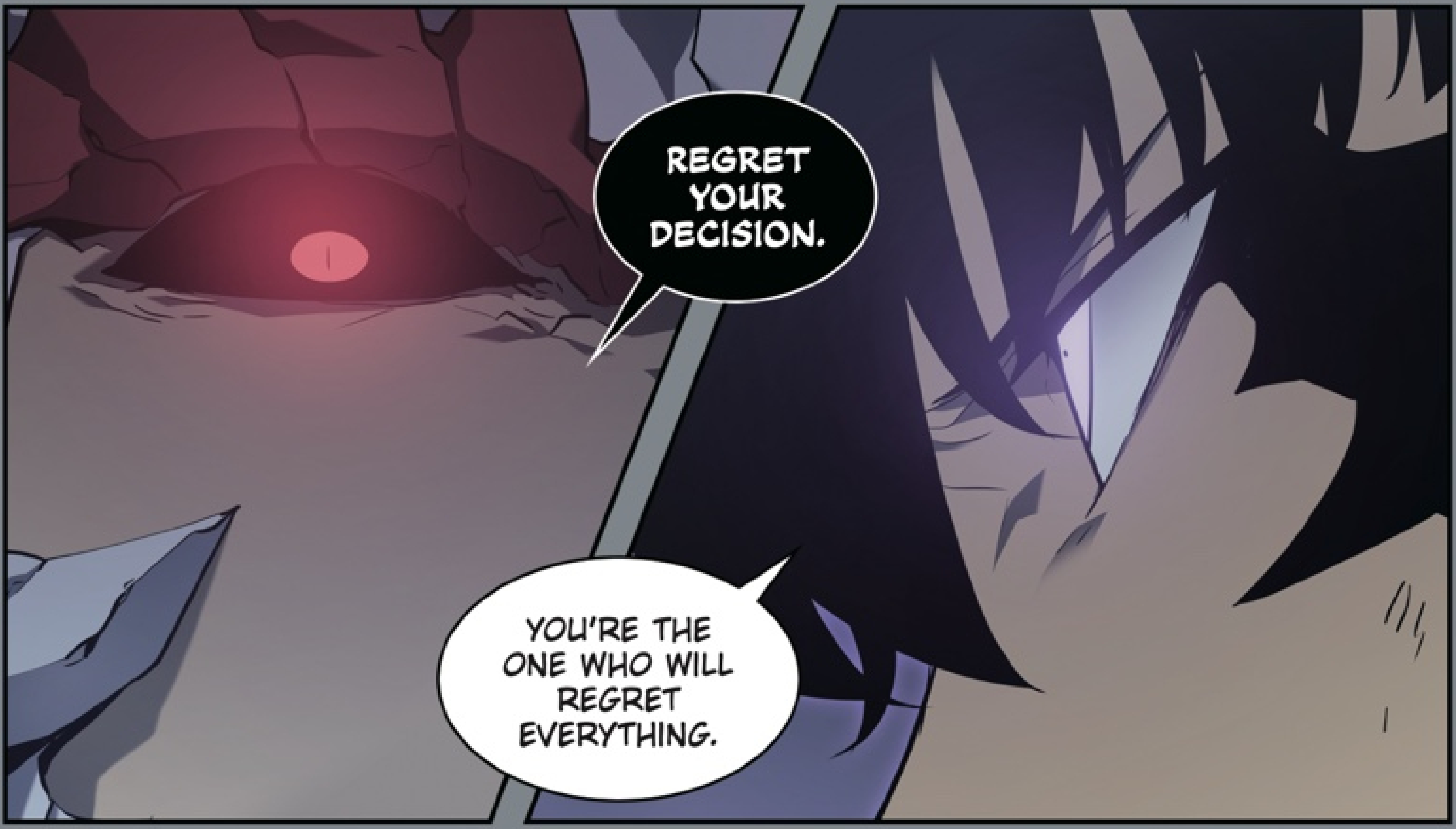

PHEW...
YOU CONSUME QUITE A LOT OF MANA JUST TO MAINTAIN THAT MASSIVE FORM.
I WILL ASK YOU ONE LAST TIME.
WON'T YOU JOIN HANDS WITH ME?
FSHHH

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN TEAMING UP WITH A MONSTER.
YOU FOOL.
FLICKER

TMP
LEAP
ALL THAT YOU WISH TO PROTECT WILL BE GONE ANYWAY!
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
KA-CLANG
EVEN AT THIS MOMENT, AS YOU AND I ARE FIGHTING...
...THE MONARCH OF TRANSFORMATION AND THE ARMY OF DESTRUCTION ARE DEMOLISHING EVERYTHING!

KRIIIK
YOU MAY BE ITS KING, BUT YOU MUST FEAR THE PROSPECT OF DYING SINCE YOU WERE BORN A HUMAN!
DO YOU WISH TO TURN TO ASH BY THE FLAME THAT CAN VANQUISH DEATH ITSELF?
EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO PROTECT WILL BECOME NOTHING BUT A MEMORY!
SINCE YOU'VE AWAKENED ASHBORN'S POWER, YOU CAN NOW PROBABLY SENSE...
KLANK
...ALL THE SCREAMS AND WAILS ECHOING THROUGHOUT THIS WORLD.
SHUNK

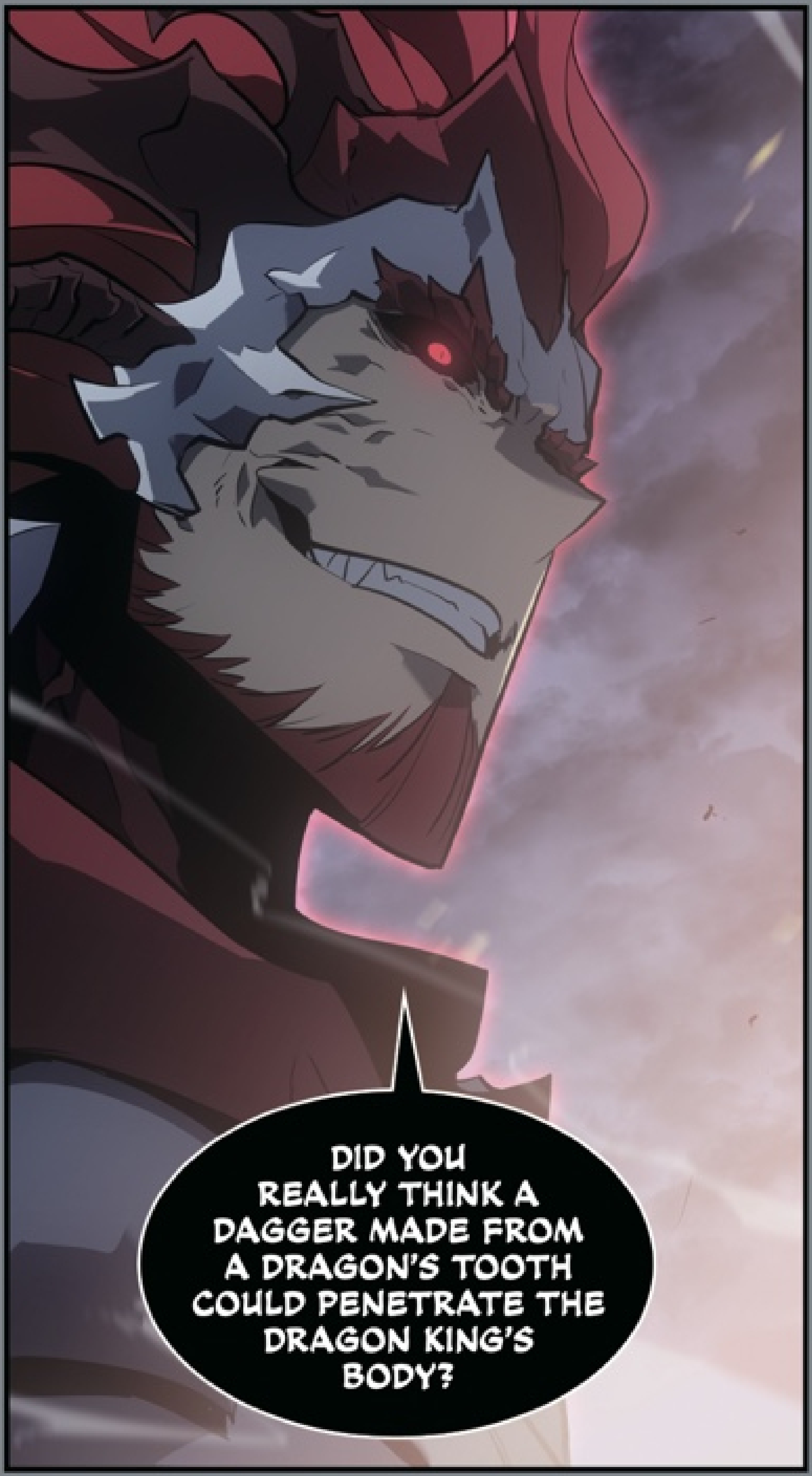
FOR THIS IS WAR!
LEAP
LISTEN TO THE SOUND OF THE ARMY OF DESTRUCTION RAGING AND TEARING APART YOUR HUMAN BRETHREN!
LISTEN TO THE SOUNDS OF ANGUISH!
SKRRRID
DESPAIR WILL SPREAD...
...AND SILENCE THEM.
SHHK


REGRET YOUR DECISION.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WILL REGRET EVERYTHING.

WHOOM

SHUNK

VMMM
VMMMMM


DID YOU REALLY THINK A DAGGER MADE FROM A DRAGON'S TOOTH COULD PENETRATE THE DRAGON KING'S BODY?

DON'T YOU FIND THIS RATHER AMUSING?
THIS IS THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE FLAME BORN OUT OF DARKNESS AND THE DARKNESS BORN OUT OF LIGHT.
TMP

AND I SUPPOSE IT HAS NOW REACHED ITS CONCLUSION.

YEAH.
I CAN SEE THE END.

OH? HAVE YOU DECIDED TO GIVE UP ON YOUR FUTILE RESISTANCE?

DASH
I'VE NO NEED FOR THE ARMY OF DESTRUCTION!
I SHALL BEHEAD YOU AND BOOST MY ARMY'S MORALE!
SUNLIGHT MAKES SHADOWS DARKER, YOU KNOW.

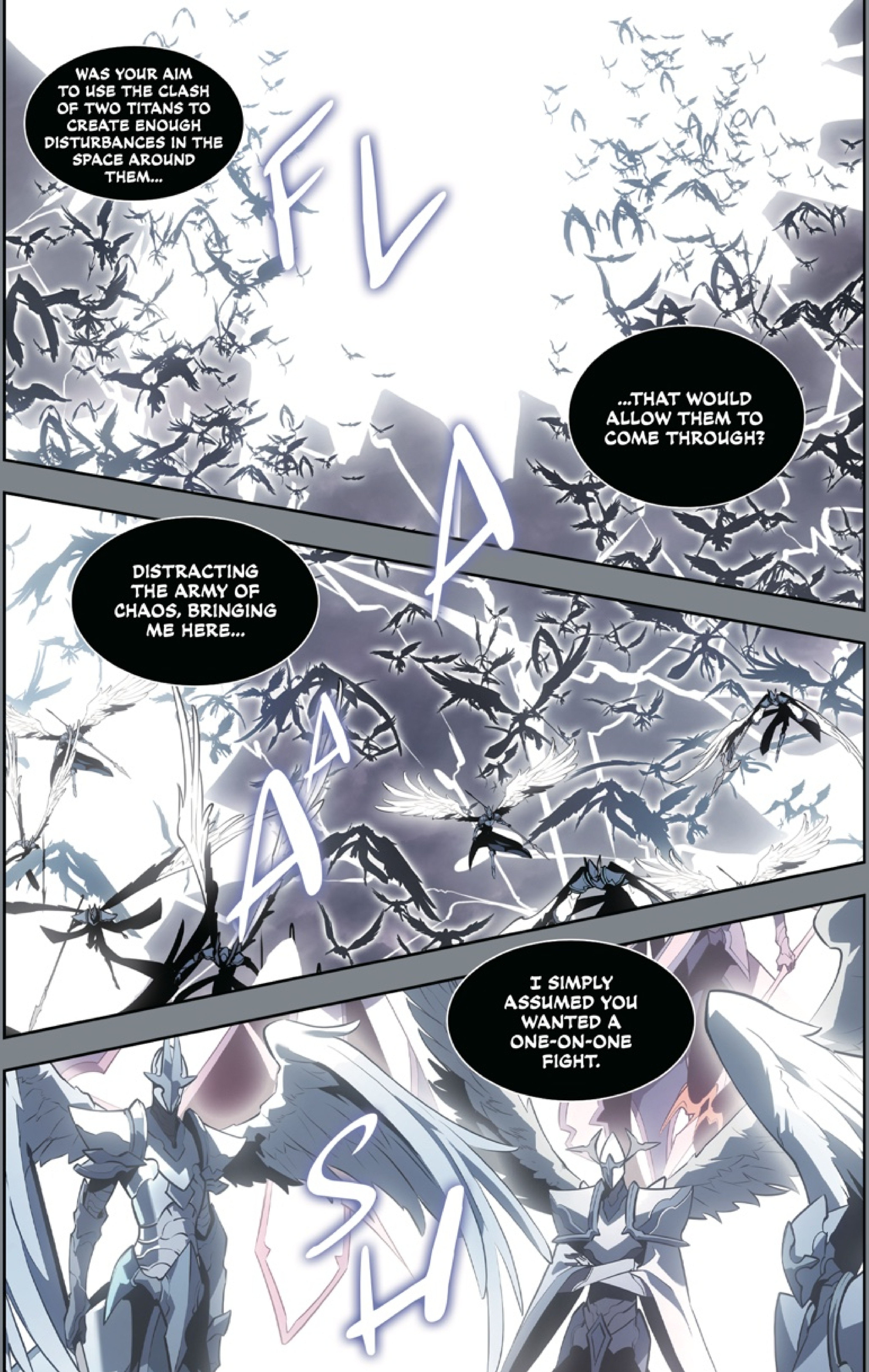
I SHALL TEAR YOU APART AND FEED YOUR FLESH TO THE WYVERNS!
I WILL SHOW YOU WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE ONE WHO RESISTS ME, THE DRAGON KING!

VWEEEN

I WONDER IF YOU CAN SEE YOUR OWN FINAL MOMENT.
KRIK

KRA-
KOOM

IMPOSSIBLE...
YOU GOT ME.
I AM SURE I DIDN'T SEE ANY GATES UPON MY ARRIVAL HERE.
AN INCALCULABLE AMOUNT OF ENERGY WOULD BE NEEDED TO OPEN A GATE CONNECTING BOTH WORLDS IN THIS MANNER.
SO HOW IS THE ARMY OF THE RULERS HERE?


WAS YOUR AIM TO USE THE CLASH OF TWO TITANS TO CREATE ENOUGH DISTURBANCES IN THE SPACE AROUND THEM...
...THAT WOULD ALLOW THEM TO COME THROUGH?
DISTRACTING THE ARMY OF CHAOS, BRINGING ME HERE...
FLAAA
I SIMPLY ASSUMED YOU WANTED A ONE-ON-ONE FIGHT.
SH

BUT...
...THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY WAY FOR YOU TO CONTACT THE RULERS...
...NO, THERE WAS.
THE VESSELS.
THERE ARE STILL SOME REMAINING TO WHICH THE RULERS LENT THEIR POWER.
...I SEE.
THAT WAS HOW THE RULERS KNEW TO SPAWN GATES AT THIS SPECIFIC LOCATION.

YOU WERE FULLY PREPARED TO LOSE THIS BATTLE IN ORDER TO WIN THE WAR.
...I WAS SOLELY FOCUSED ON OUR FIGHT. I HAVE COMPLETELY LOST.
IT WAS YOU, WASN'T IT?
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO GAVE THE ORDER...
...FOR THE MONARCH OF WHITE LIGHTNING AND THE FANG MONARCH TO ATTACK THE SHADOW MONARCH FROM BEHIND.
...DID THE MONARCH OF WHITE LIGHTNING GIVE THE GAME AWAY?

ASHBORN...
FLINCH

ASHBORN SENDS HIS REGARDS.
HOW DARE YOU?!!

SHUNK
SHUNK
AH, THE BRIGHTEST FRAGMENT OF LUMINOSITY...

THE WORLD IS COVERED IN BRIGHT LIGHT AND DARK SHADOW...
DID I NOT HAVE A CHANCE OF WINNING FROM THE BEGINNING?

...I WILL WAIT FOR YOU IN THE REAL ETERNAL REST—NOT IN THE FAKE ONE YOU HAVE CREATED.
FSHHH
SEE YOU THERE.

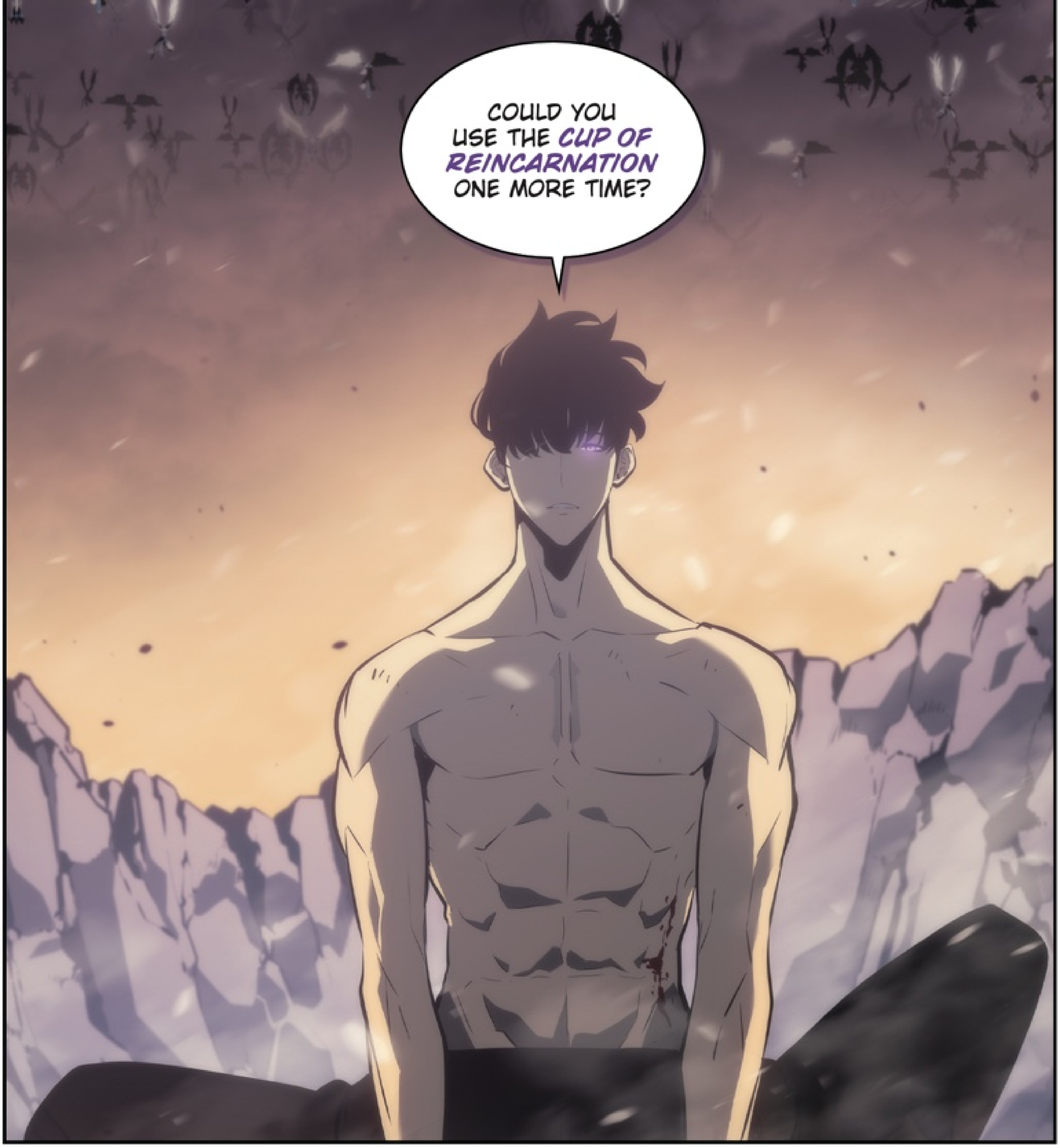
DON'T WORRY.

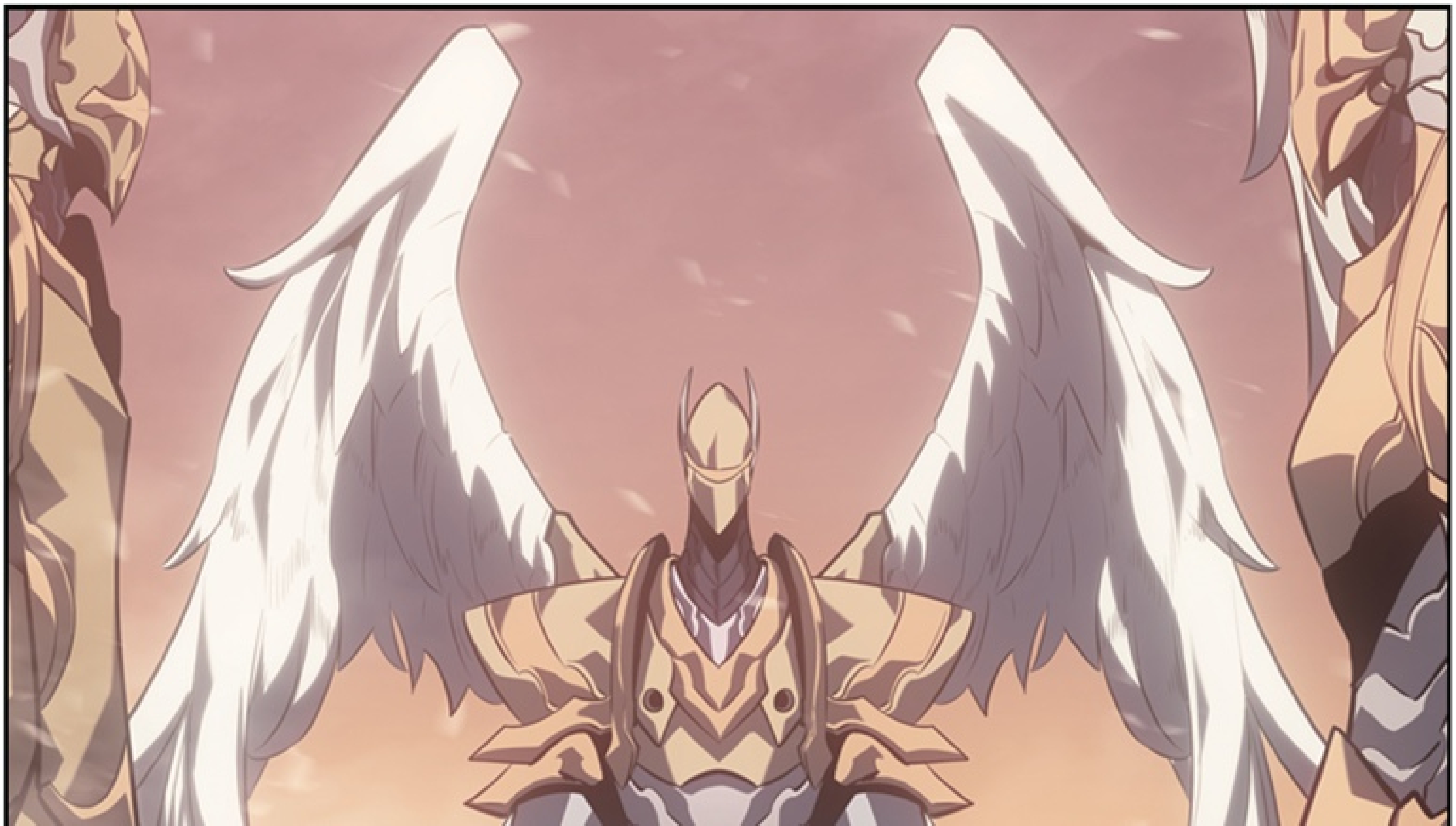
FSHHH
WE'LL MEET AGAIN VERY SOON.

SHF

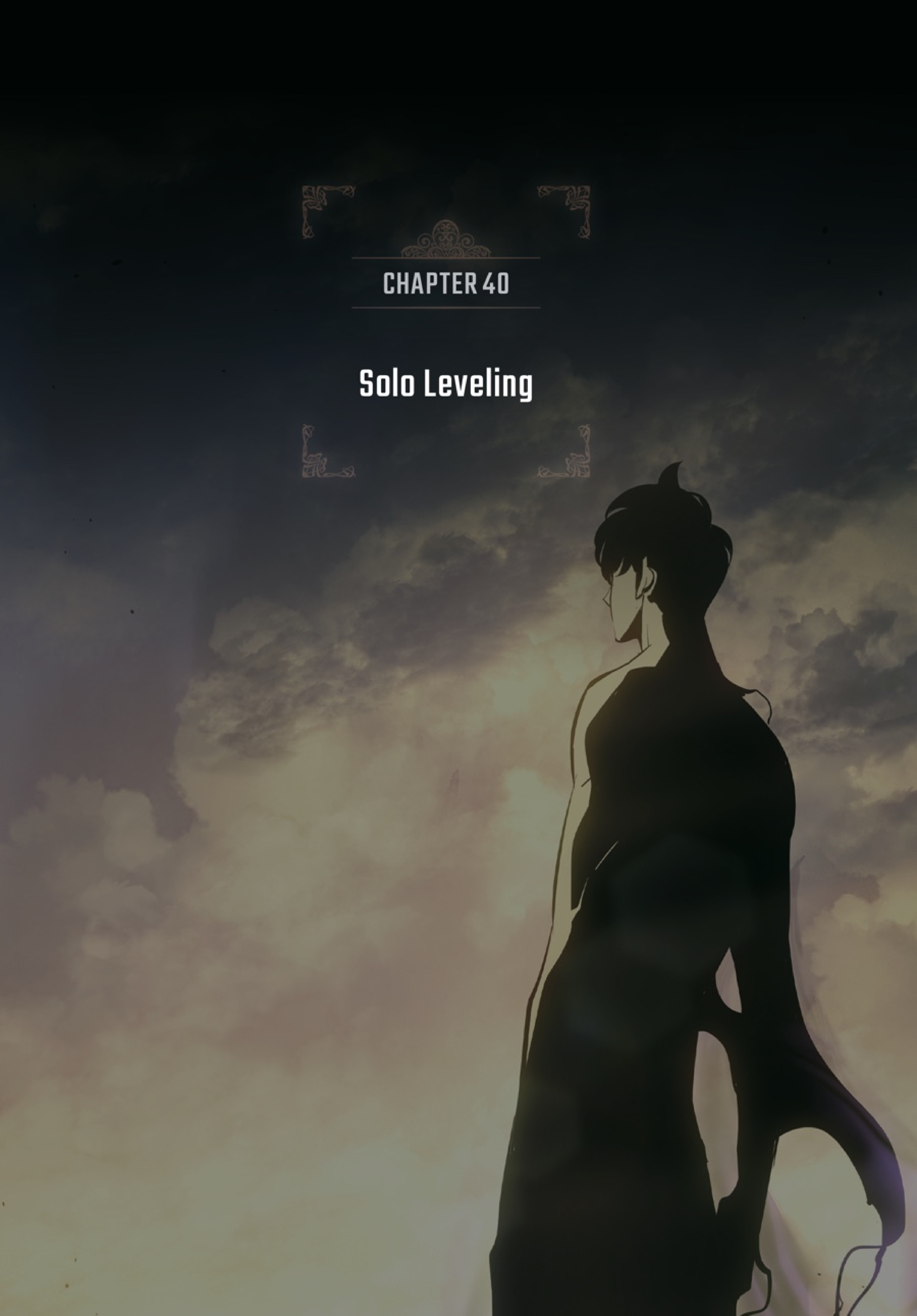
YOU HAVE ENDED OUR WAR.
I DO NOT KNOW HOW TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIA-TION.

PLEASE DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY, BUT I'D LIKE TO REQUEST A FAVOR.
A FAVOR...?
THIS IS SOMETHING ONLY YOU CAN DO.
AS LONG AS IT IS WITHIN MY POWER, I SHALL LEND MY AID.
ONE MORE TIME...

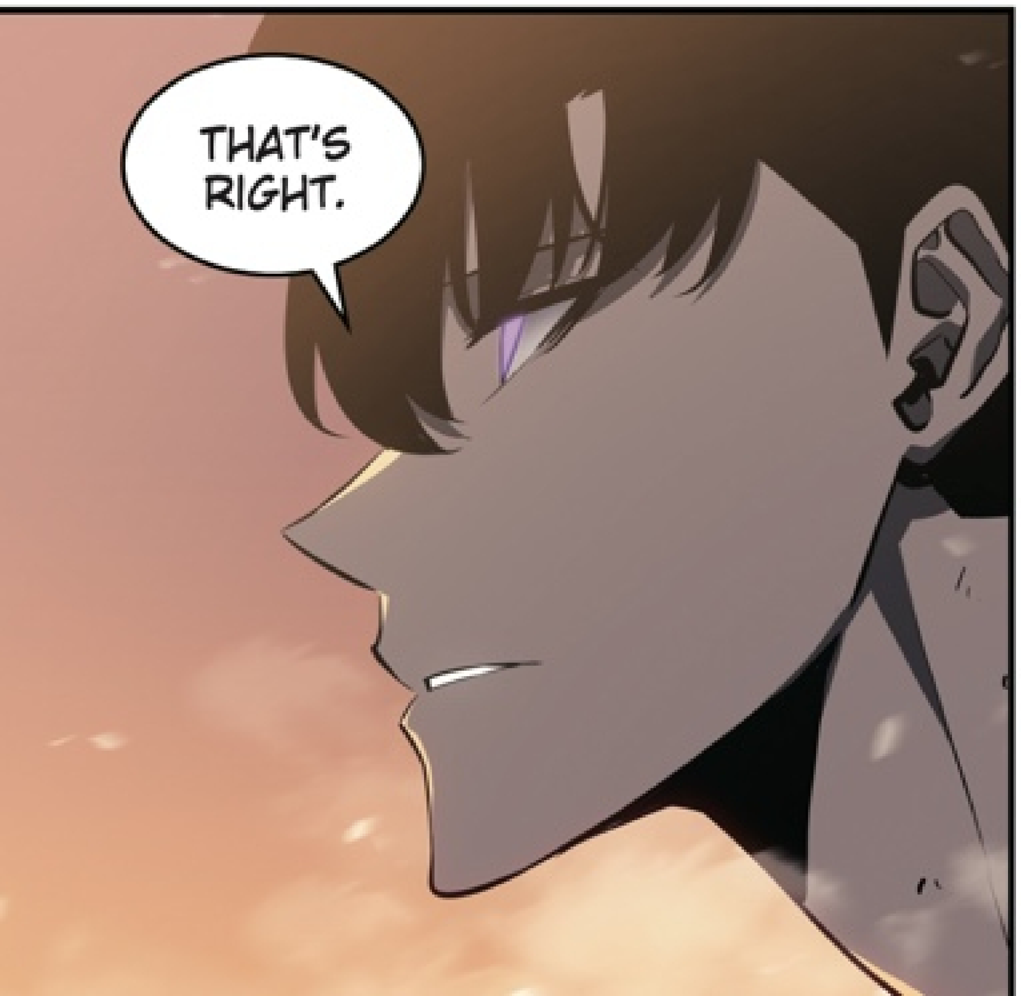

COULD YOU USE THE CUP OF REINCARNATION ONE MORE TIME?



Solo
Leveling


CHAPTER 40
Solo Leveling

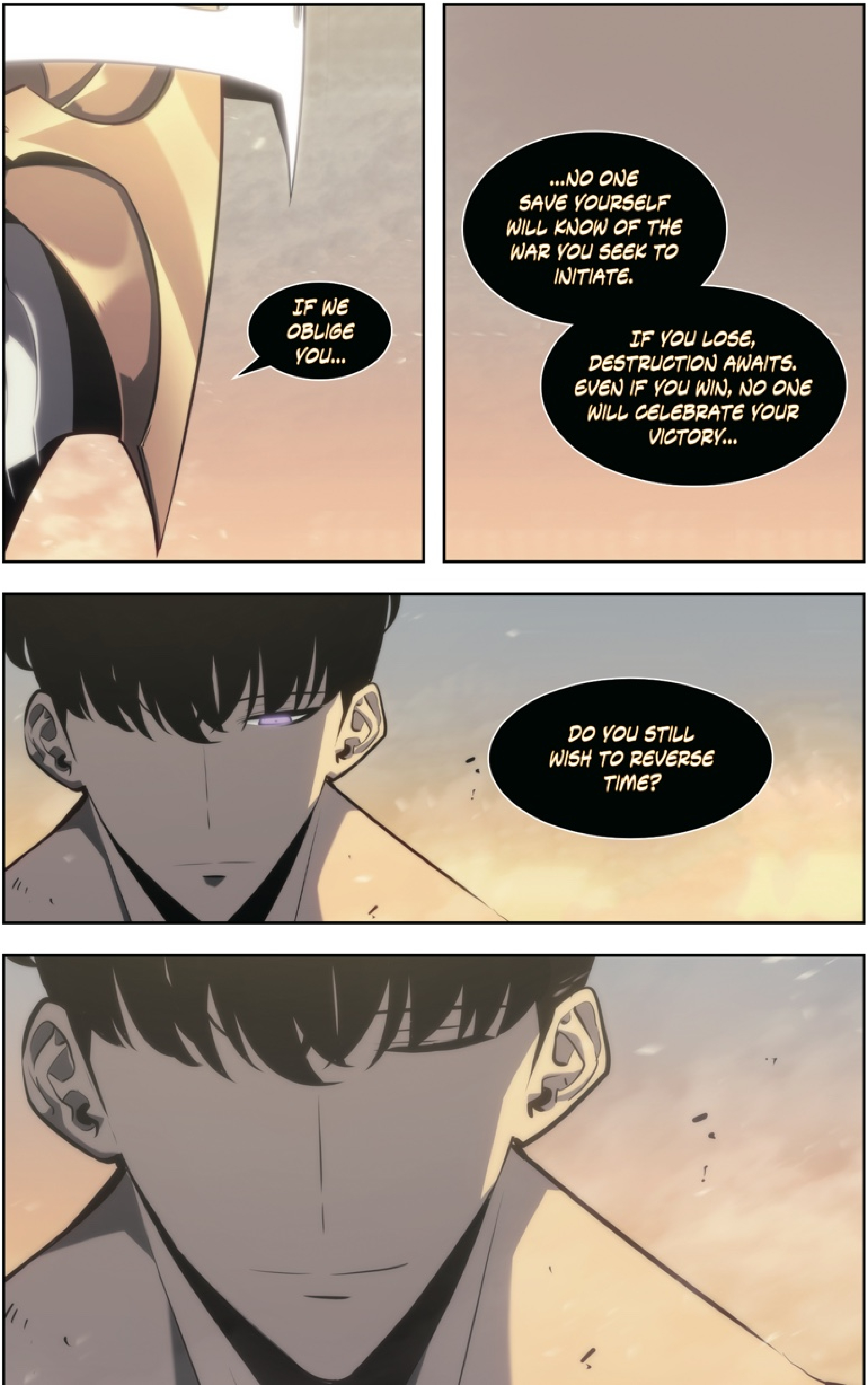
YOU WANT US TO USE THE CUP OF REINCARNATION TO REVERSE TIME?


THAT'S RIGHT.

HIGHER BEINGS RETAIN THEIR MEMORIES EVEN IF A FORBIDDEN TOOL IS USED TO UNDO THE PAST.
THAT MEANS THE DEAD MONARCHS WILL RESPAWN WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT HAPPENED...

THAT'S FINE. AND ONCE YOU'VE REWOUND TIME, I ASK THAT YOU LEAVE EARTH ALONE.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE MONARCHS AND THEIR ARMIES IN THE RIFT BETWEEN DIMENSIONS.
YOU MEAN TO DEAL WITH THE ENEMY'S ARMY...ALL BY YOURSELF...?
BUT WHY?
WE HAVE USED THE CUP OF REINCARNATION AGAIN AND AGAIN, BUT WE HAVE NEVER HAD BETTER RESULTS THAN THIS.
THIS WAR HAS CLAIMED FAR TOO MANY LIVES...

I WANT THEM BACK.
THE CUP OF REINCARNATION IS AT THE END OF ITS LIFE.
WE WILL NOT GET ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY IN THE OFF CHANCE THAT YOU FAIL.
YOU COULD FOREVER REMAIN IN PEOPLE'S MEMORIES AS THE HERO...
...WHO STOPPED THE INVASION OF THE MONARCHS.


IF WE OBLIGE YOU...
...NO ONE SAVE YOURSELF WILL KNOW OF THE WAR YOU SEEK TO INITIATE.
IF YOU LOSE, DESTRUCTION AWAITS. EVEN IF YOU WIN, NO ONE WILL CELEBRATE YOUR VICTORY...
DO YOU STILL WISH TO REVERSE TIME?

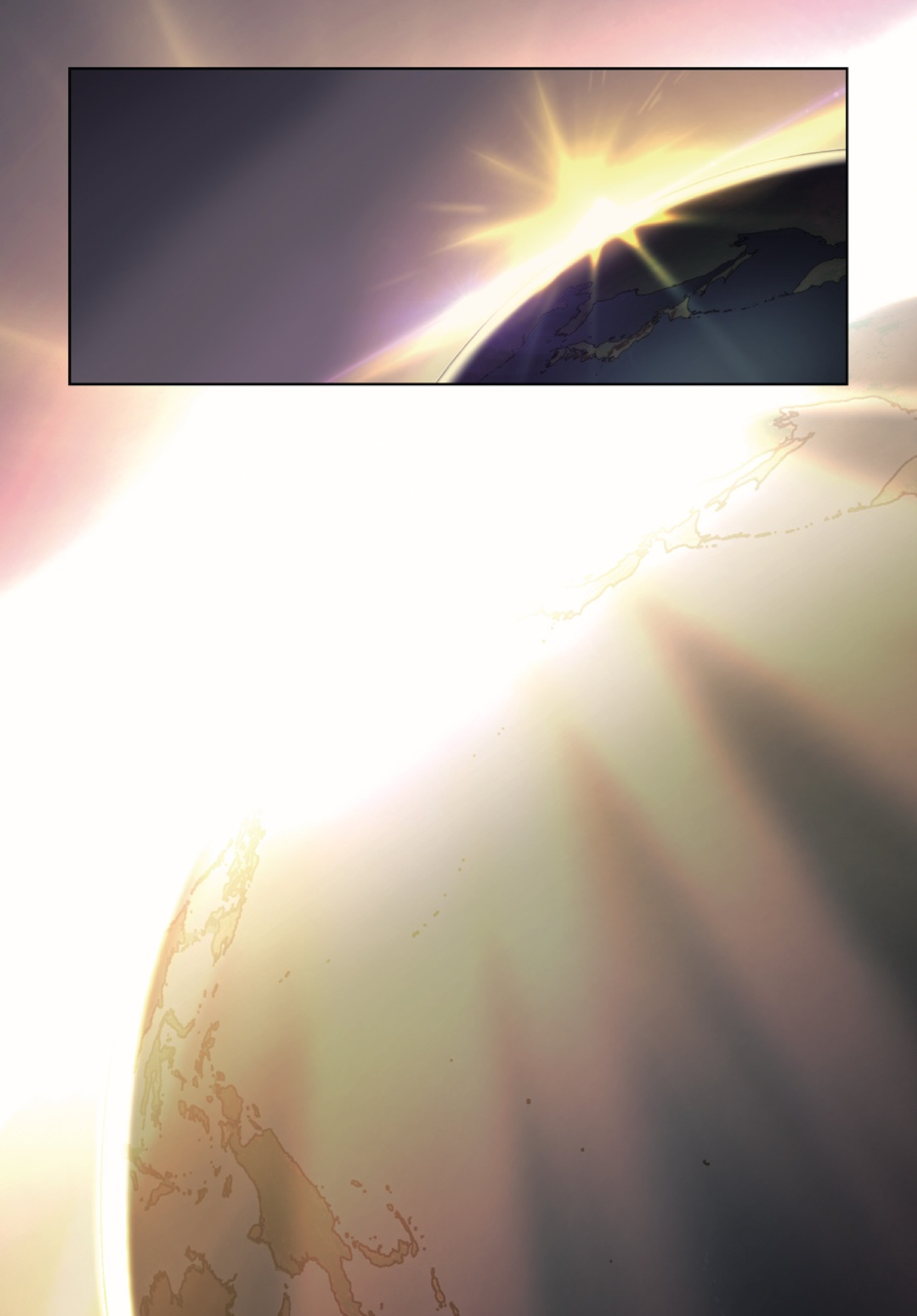
YES. I WANT TO TURN BACK TIME.

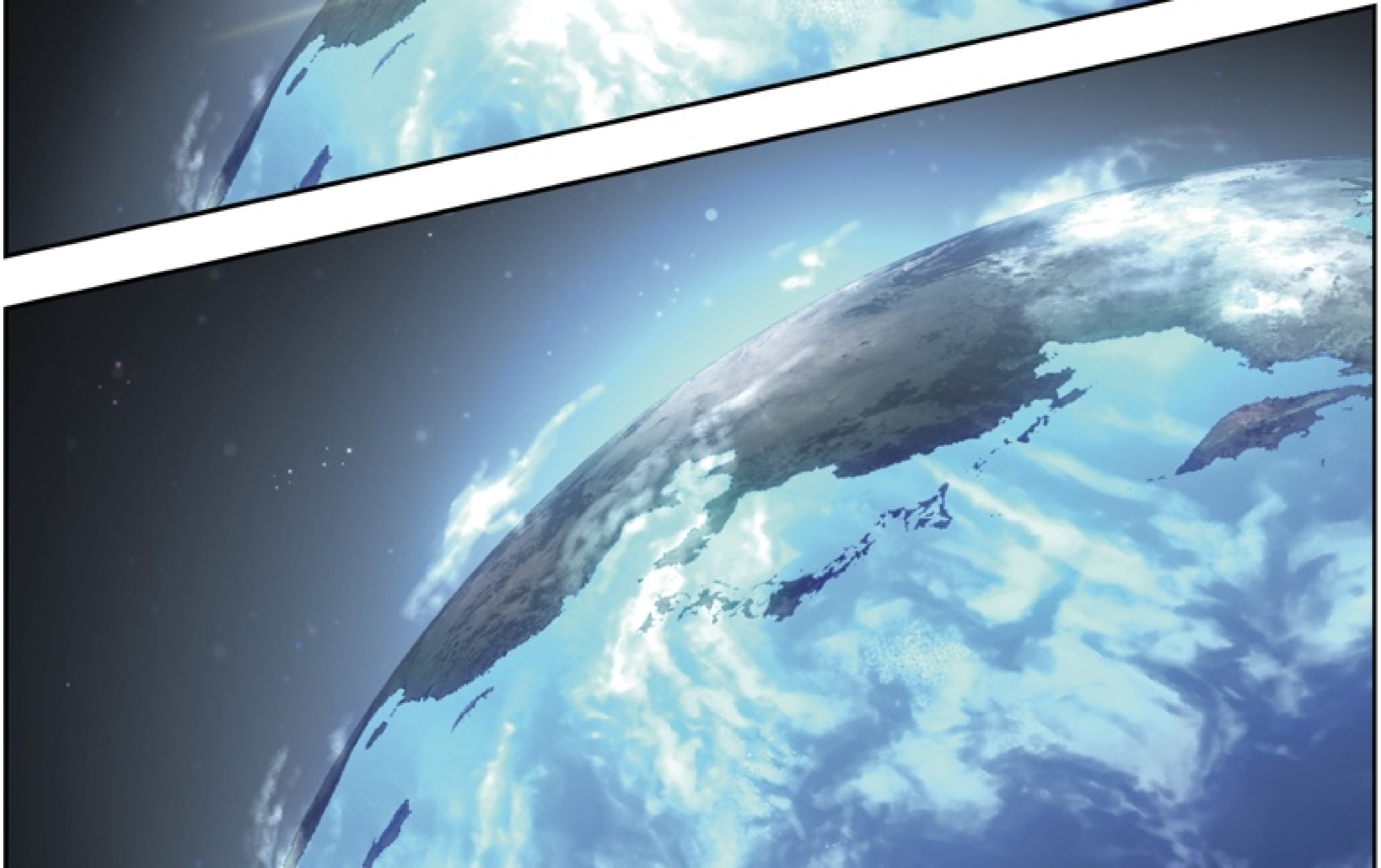
......
YOU ARE CHOOSING TO SAVE THE ENTIRETY OF THE WORLD INSTEAD OF SETTLING FOR SAVING A FRACTION OF IT.
YOUR RESOLVE TO SHOULDER THE BURDEN ALONE...
...RESEMBLES ASHBORN, THE PREVIOUS SHADOW MONARCH.
I SEE. THEN I SHALL PRAY FOR YOUR VICTORY.
HOLD ON.
WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SOLDIERS WHO DIDN'T EXIST IN THE PAST?

BEINGS WHO WOULD OVERLAP IN THE PAST WILL DISAPPEAR...
...WHILE THE OTHERS WILL REMAIN.
GOT IT. I'M READY.
GRIN

MAY YOUR COURAGE SAVE YOUR WORLD.

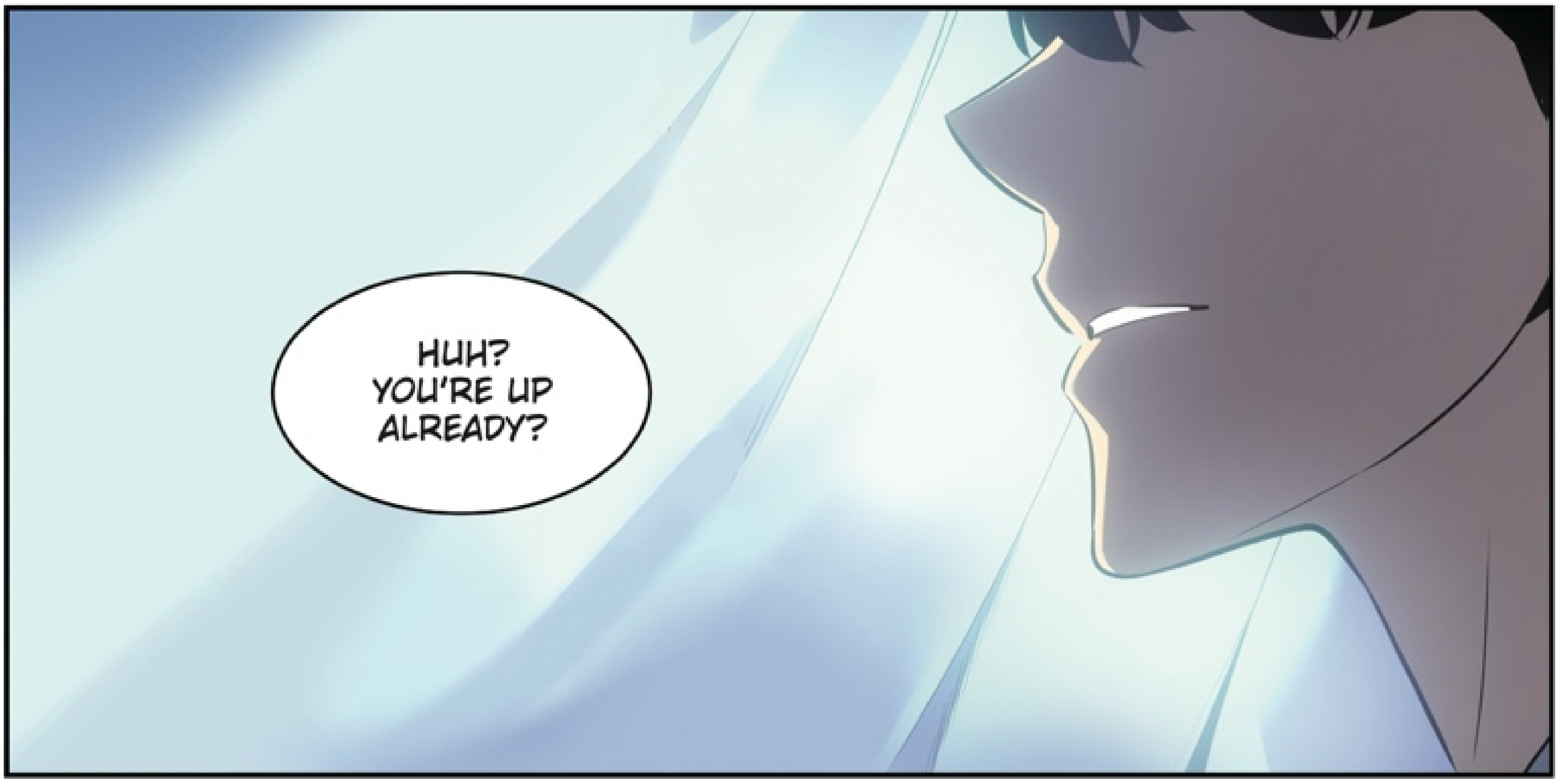
FLASH

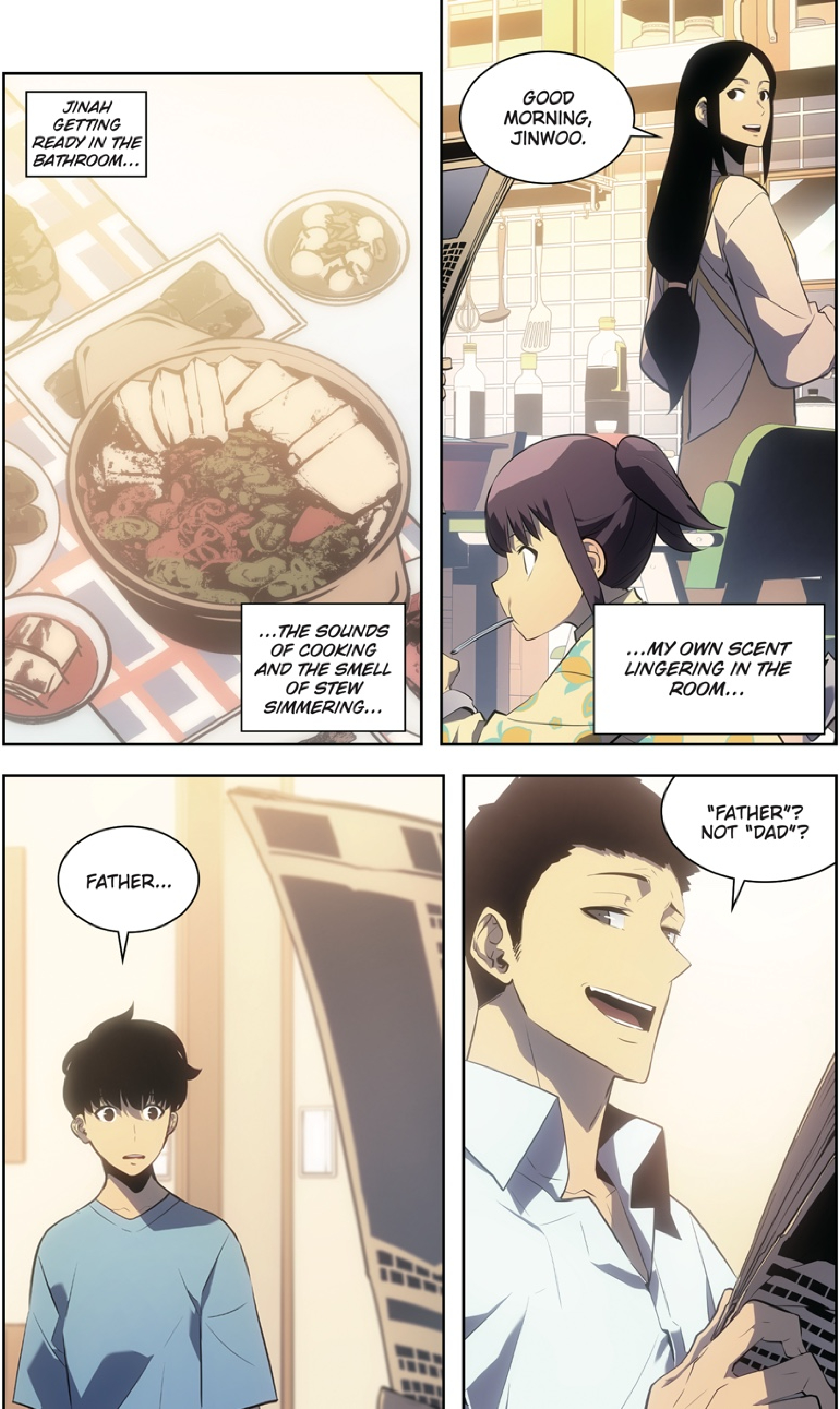




JINAH,
CAN YOU WAKE
UP YOUR
BROTHER?
'KAY!

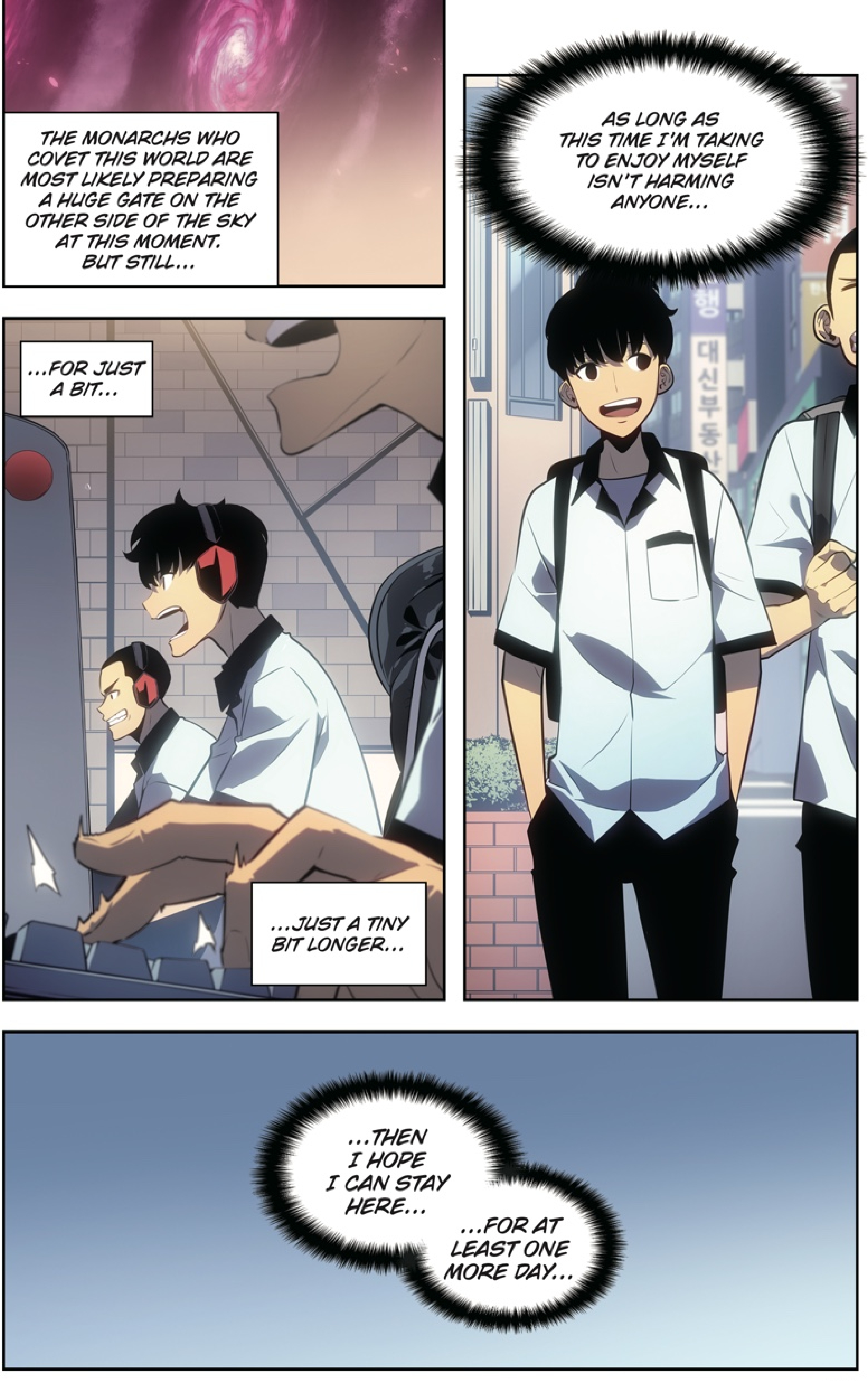
HEY,
JINWOO!
BURST


HUH? YOU'RE UP ALREADY?

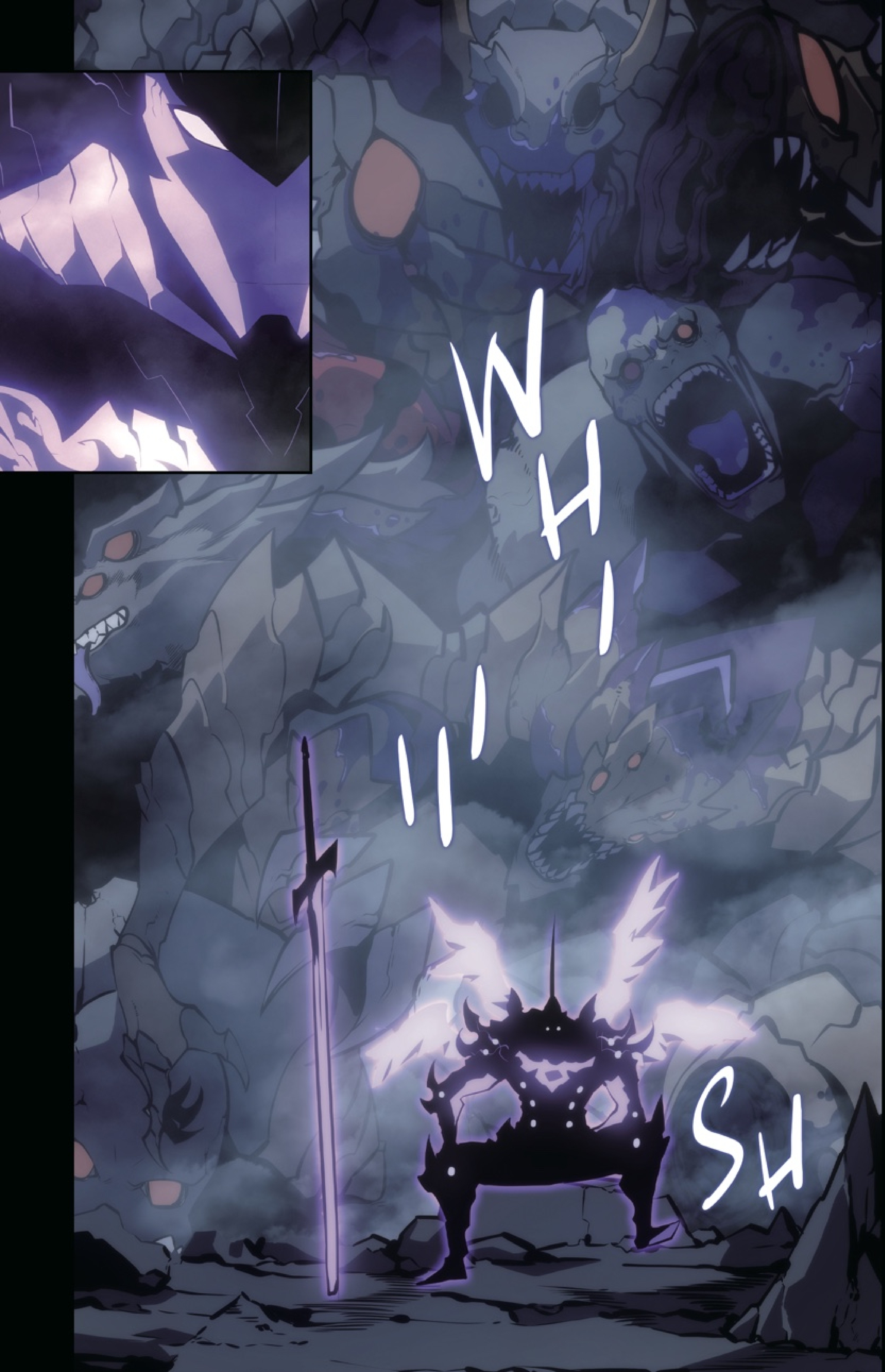

JINAH GETTING READY IN THE BATHROOM...
...THE SOUNDS OF COOKING AND THE SMELL OF STEW SIMMERING...
GOOD MORNING, JINWOO.
...MY OWN SCENT LINGERING IN THE ROOM...
FATHER...
"FATHER"? NOT "DAD"?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, SON?
...MUST'VE HAD A NIGHTMARE.
RIGHT. THE NIGHTMARE IS OVER.
MY SISTER IS A LITTLE KID, MY MOTHER IS HEALTHY, AND MY FATHER IS PRESENT.
I'VE BEEN GIVEN ONE LAST CHANCE TO MAKE EVERYTHING RIGHT...

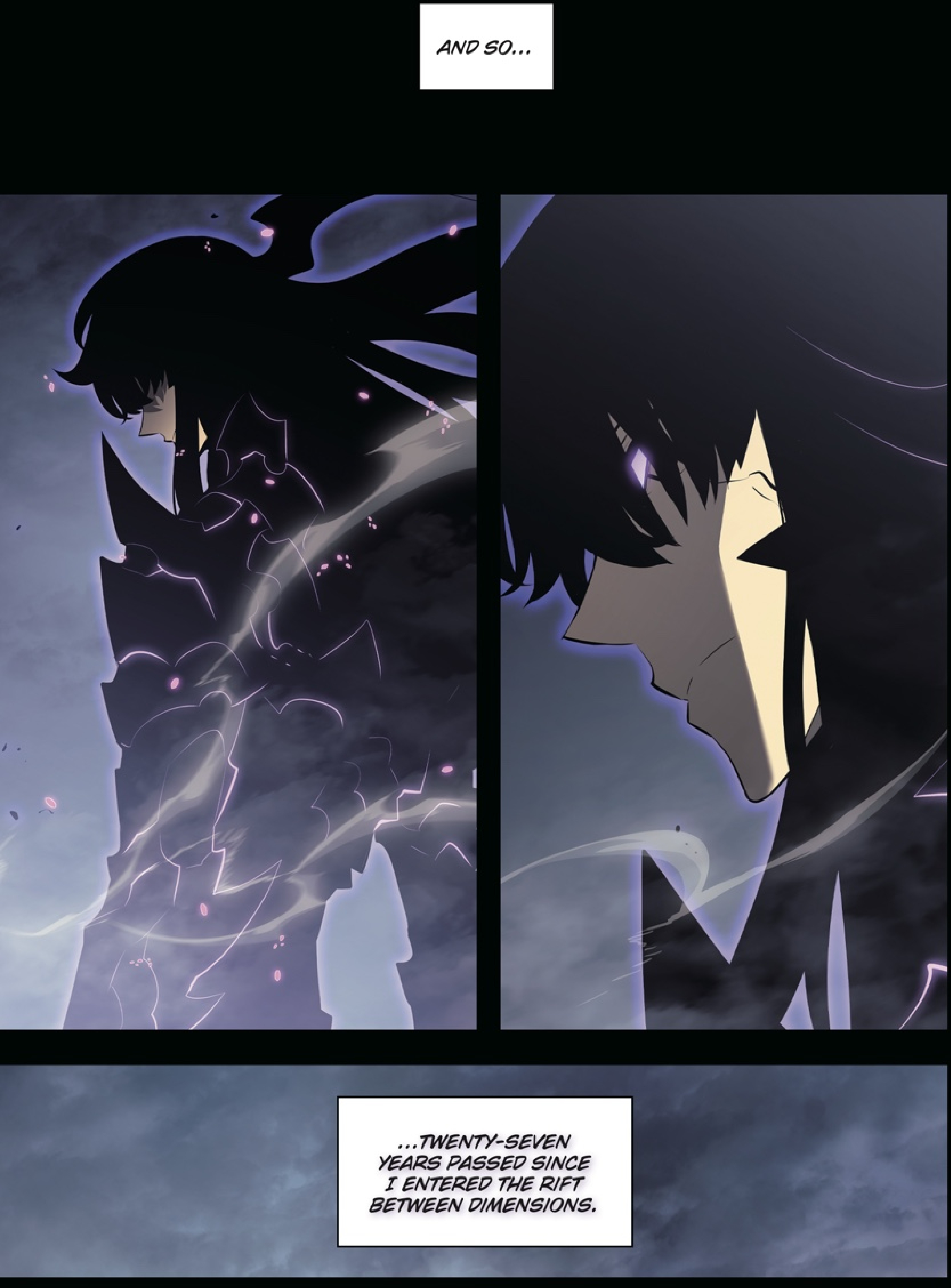
I WON'T SQUANDER THE OPPORTUNITY.
I'M GOING TO REWRITE THE FUTURE.
BUT...
...CAN'T I...
CREATIVITY CHALLENG
...ENJOY THE PEACE JUST A LITTLE...
...AS A REWARD FOR MYSELF?
I'M FULLY AWARE.

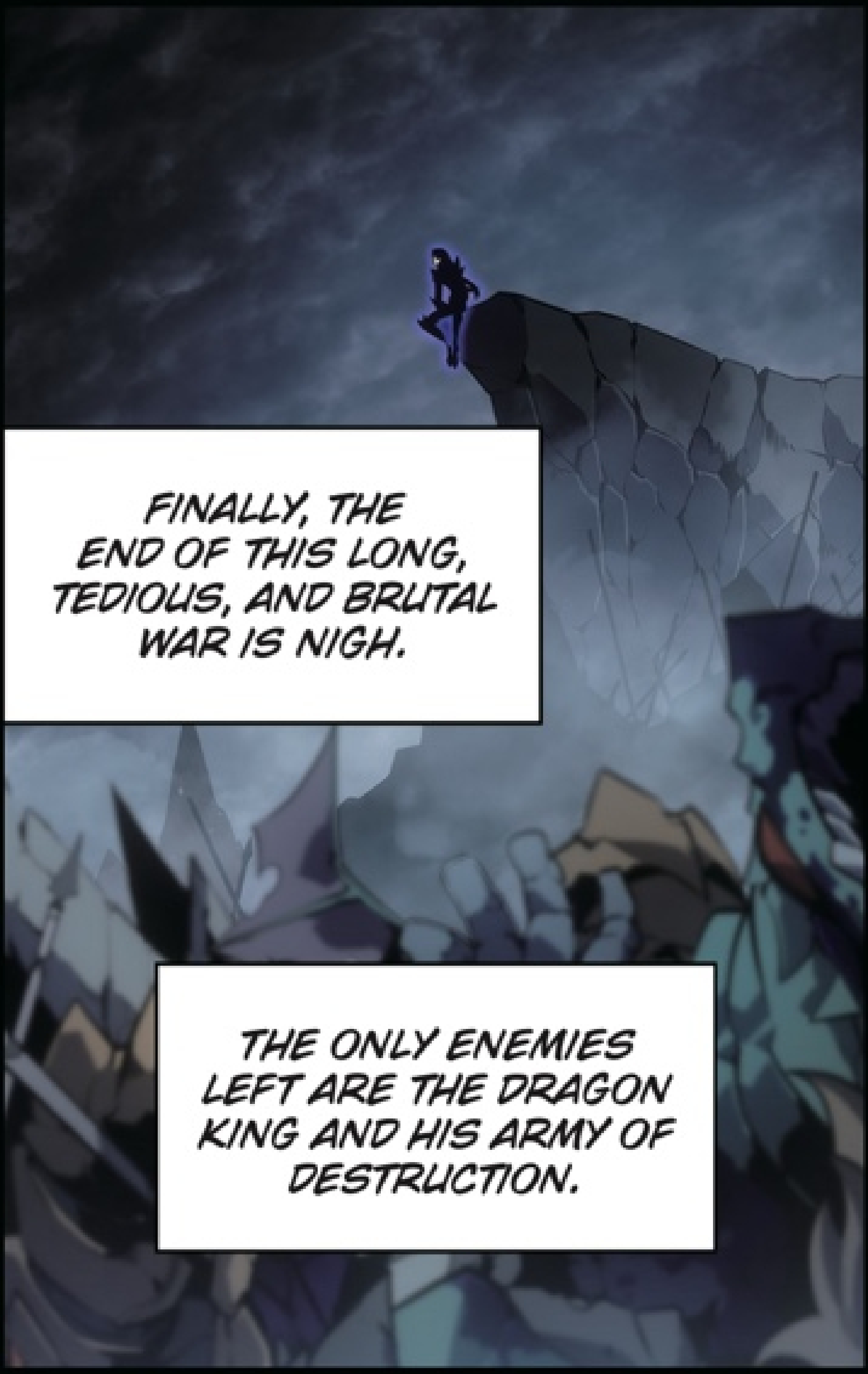

THE MONARCHS WHO COVET THIS WORLD ARE MOST LIKELY PREPARING A HUGE GATE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SKY AT THIS MOMENT. BUT STILL…
AS LONG AS THIS TIME I'M TAKING TO ENJOY MYSELF ISN'T HARMING ANYONE…
…FOR JUST A BIT…
…JUST A TINY BIT LONGER…
…THEN I HOPE I CAN STAY HERE…
…FOR AT LEAST ONE MORE DAY…

I'll come back
after I finish what
I need to do.

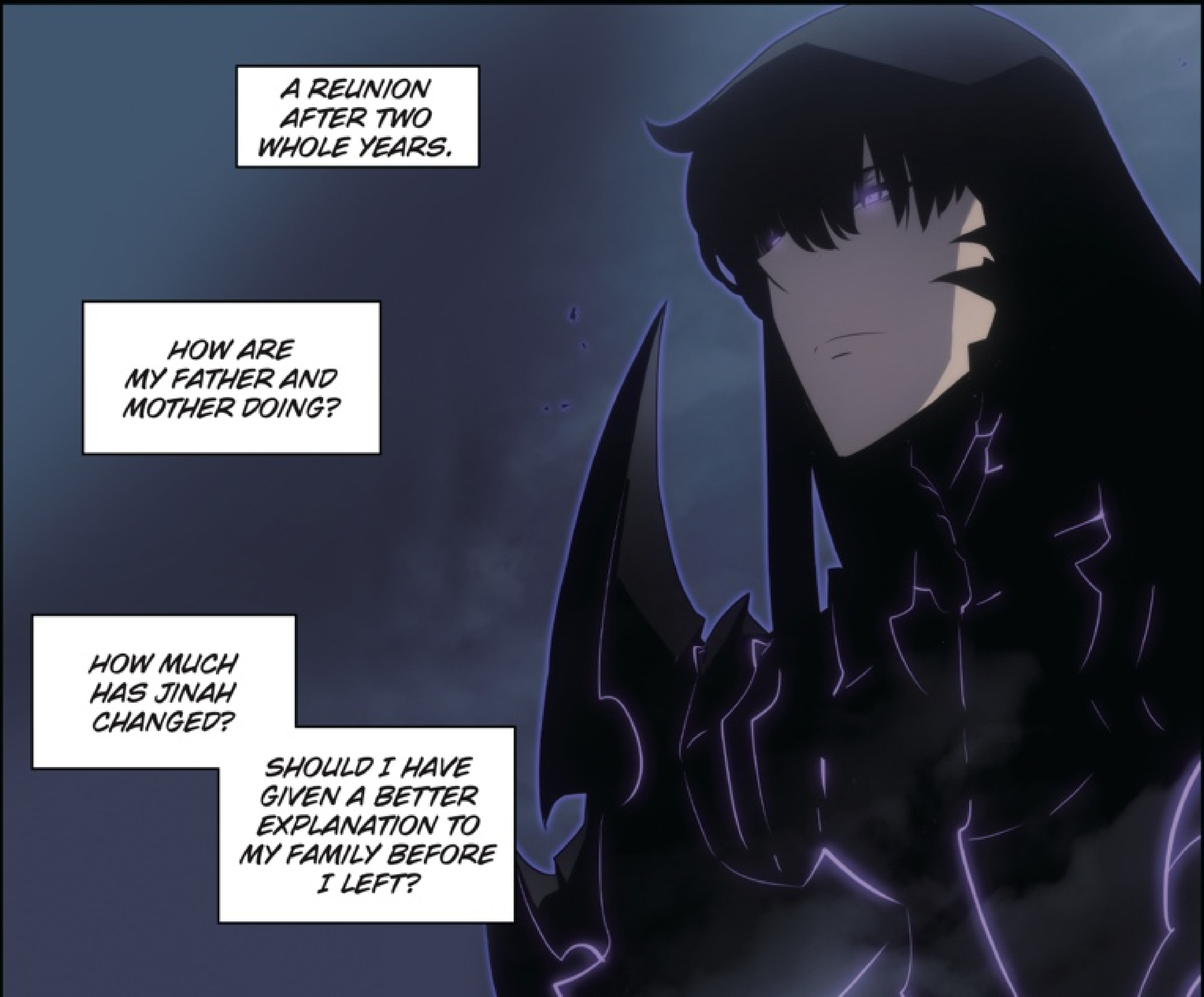

WHIIII
SH

THIS PLACE OF NOTHINGNESS CONTAINS ONLY ENDLESS DARKNESS, AND IT IS HARD TO STAY SANE WHEN NOT IN THE MIDDLE OF BATTLE.
WHIIIISH
I'VE SPENT MY TIME WINNING BATTLES AGAINST MONARCHS...
...AND I MANAGED TO KILL THE TRANSFIGURATION MONARCH, WHO WAS A PAIN IN MY ASS.


AND SO...
...TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS PASSED SINCE I ENTERED THE RIFT BETWEEN DIMENSIONS.


FINALLY, THE END OF THIS LONG, TEDIOUS, AND BRUTAL WAR IS NIGH.
THE ONLY ENEMIES LEFT ARE THE DRAGON KING AND HIS ARMY OF DESTRUCTION.

I'M GLAD THAT TIME HERE AND AT HOME MOVE AT DIFFERENT SPEEDS.
ABOUT TWO YEARS WILL HAVE PASSED OUT THERE.


A REUNION AFTER TWO WHOLE YEARS.
HOW ARE MY FATHER AND MOTHER DOING?
HOW MUCH HAS JINAH CHANGED?
SHOULD I HAVE GIVEN A BETTER EXPLANATION TO MY FAMILY BEFORE I LEFT?

MY LORD, IT IS DONE. WE LEFT NO SURVIVORS.

GOOD.
I WON'T LOSE THIS SECOND GO-AROUND.

ARISE.
VWOOM

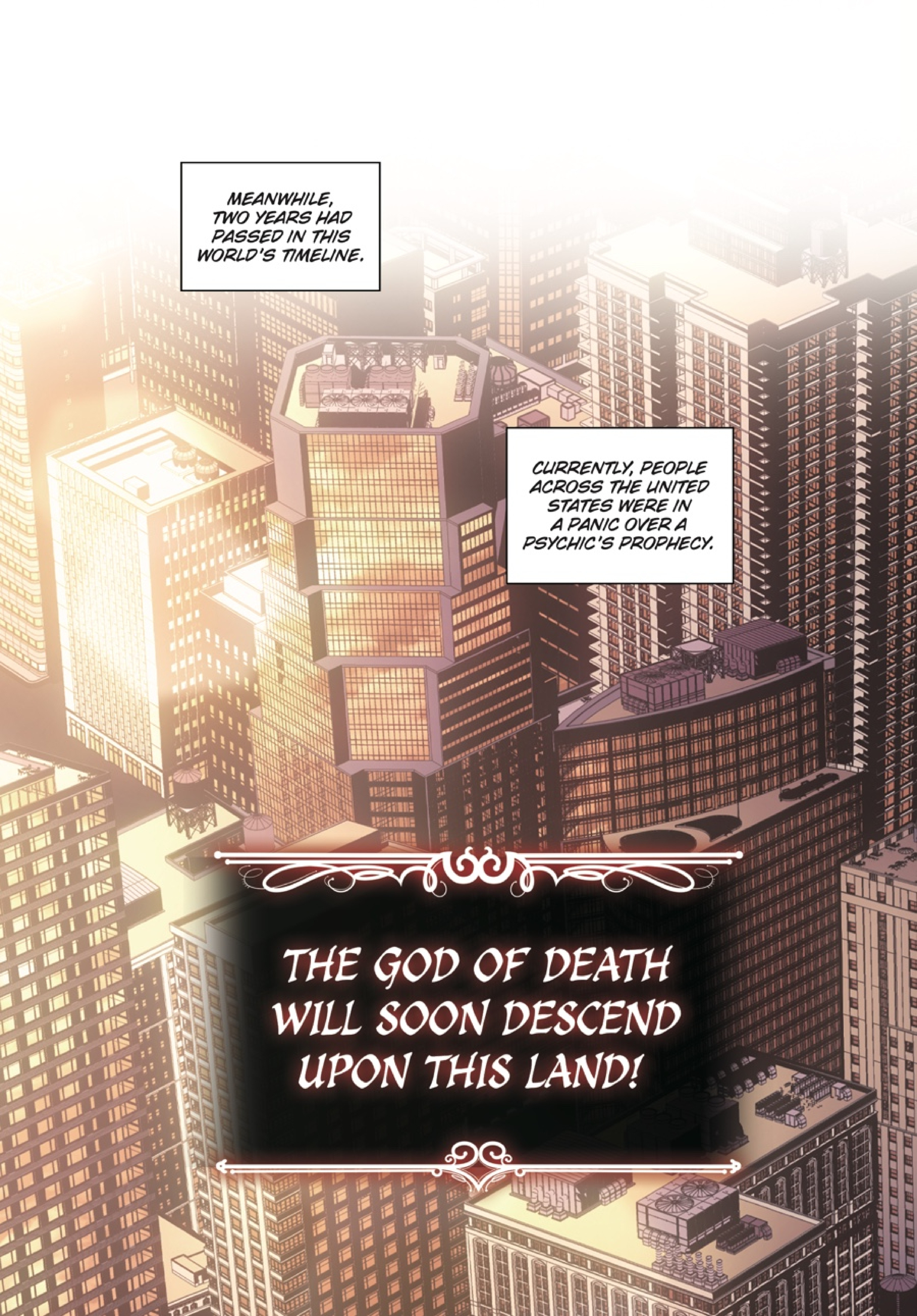
YOGMUNT HAS BEEN KILLED.
SIRE, PERHAPS YOU SHOULD GO FAR AWAY—
NO. I'M TIRED OF RUNNING AWAY.
I WILL FIGHT HIM HERE.

INCREDIBLE. TRULY INCREDIBLE, O KING OF THE DEAD.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD USE THE CUP OF REINCARNATION.
WHO KNEW THE NEXT TIME I FACED YOU WOULD BE WHEN WE'RE STILL ALIVE?
HOWEVER, IT IS TIME FOR ONE OF US TO RETURN TO THE ETERNAL REST.
FSHH
MY NAME IS ANTARES.
WHAT IS YOURS...
...SECOND SHADOW MONARCH?

JINWOO SUNG.
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY?

...NOTHING AT ALL.

LEAP
DASH
CLANG

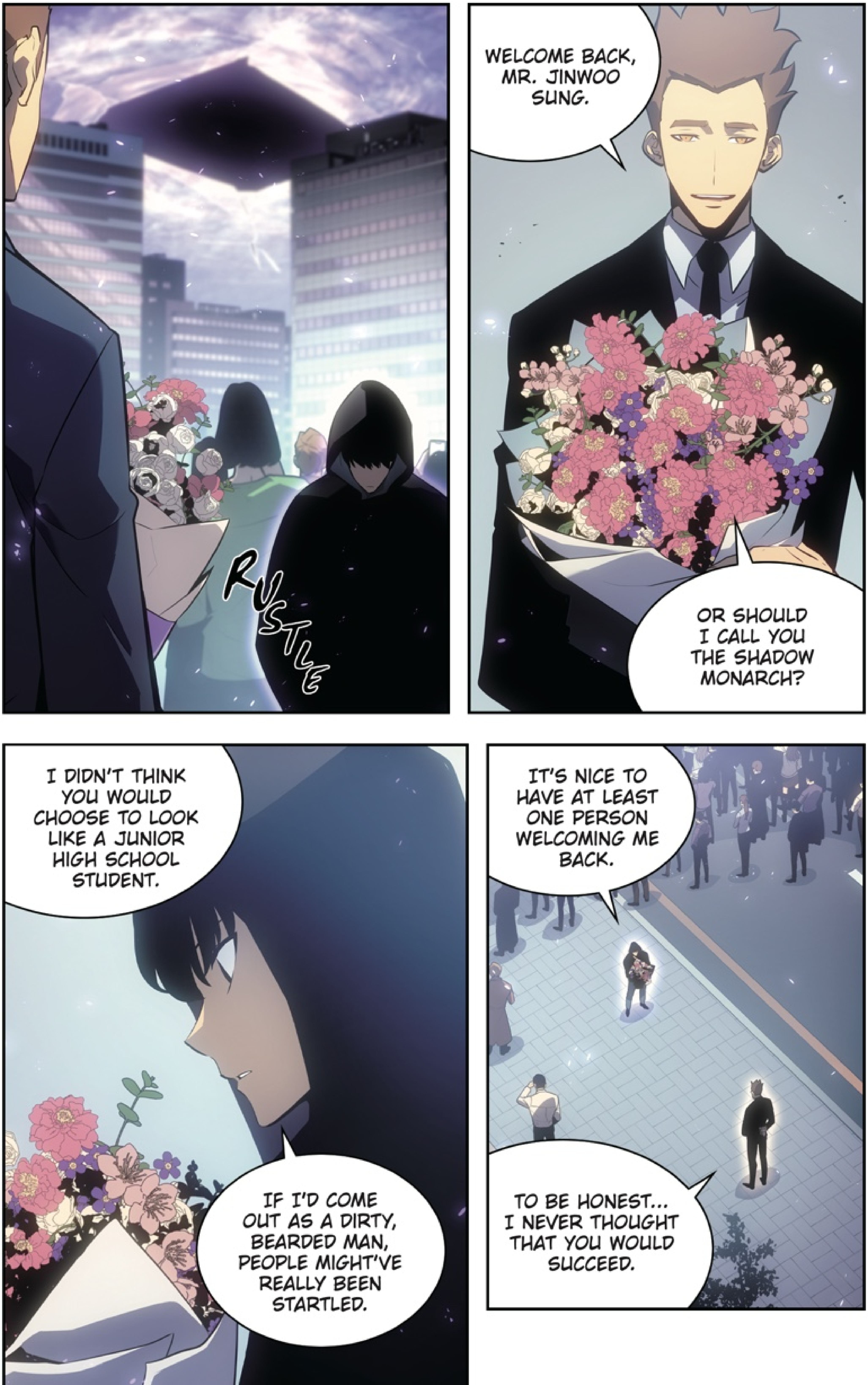

MEANWHILE, TWO YEARS HAD PASSED IN THIS WORLD'S TIMELINE.
CURRENTLY, PEOPLE ACROSS THE UNITED STATES WERE IN A PANIC OVER A PSYCHIC'S PROPHECY.
THE GOD OF DEATH WILL SOON DESCEND UPON THIS LAND!

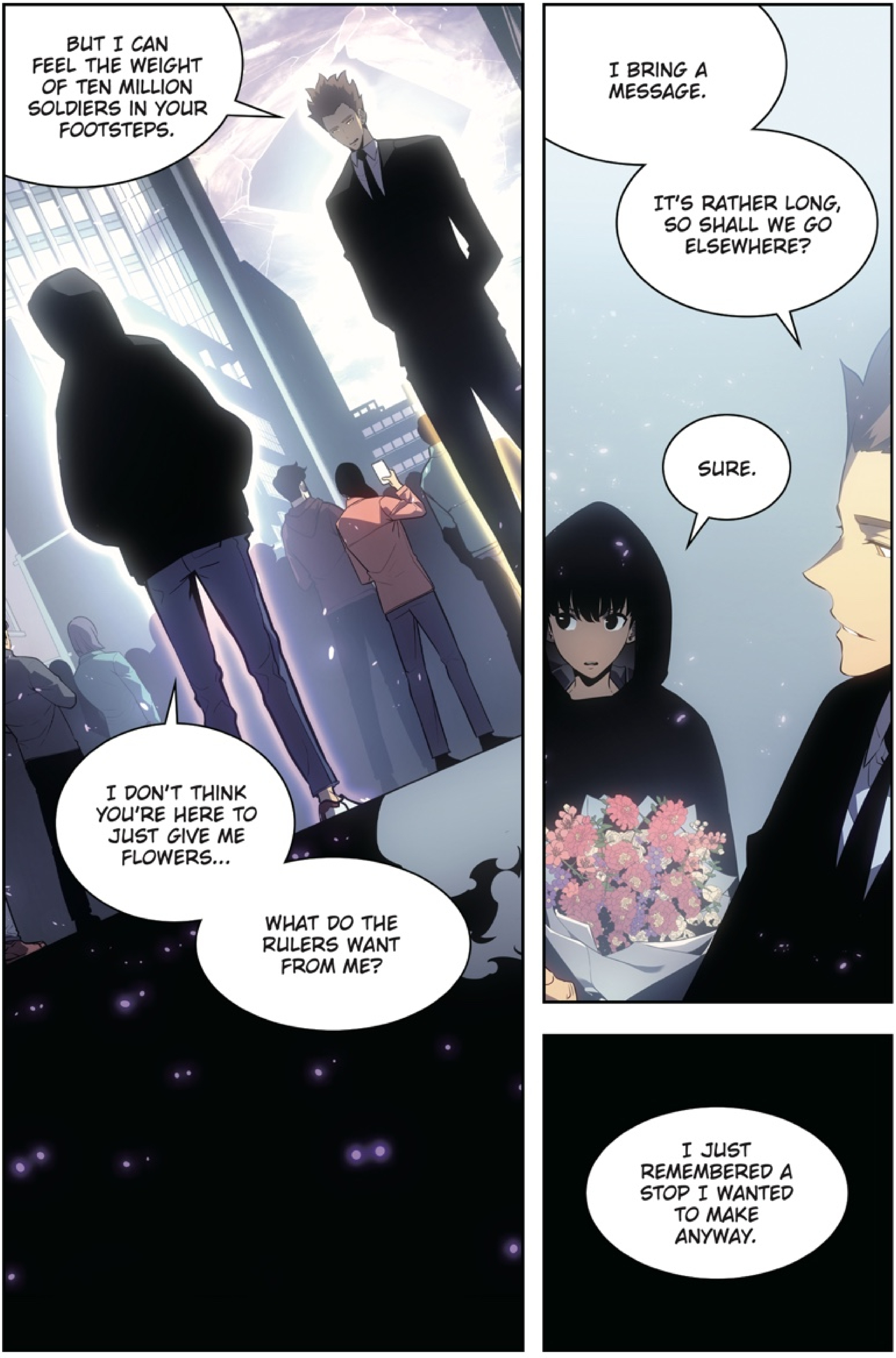
NORMALLY, PEOPLE WOULDN'T GIVE SUCH CLAIMS THE TIME OF DAY.
HOWEVER, THIS PROPHECY CAME FROM NORMA SELLNER.
<The god of death will arrive on this planet with his infinite army.>
<Just as we can't escape death, there is no way to run away from him.>
NORMA SELLNER'S SPIRITUAL EYES HAD OPENED TWO YEARS EARLIER.
SINCE THEN, SHE'D PREDICTED THE DEATH OF THE NORTH KOREAN LEADER, A TERRORIST AIRPLANE HIJACKING, THE STOCK MARKET CRASH DUE TO THE HOUSING CRISIS, AND SO ON.
SHE WAS THE TALK OF THE TOWN DUE TO HER ABILITIES.
FOR SOMEONE OF HER CALIBER TO PREDICT THE APOCALYPSE WAS TERRIFYING.

THE VERY NEXT DAY...

...WHEN AN ENORMOUS BLACK HOLE COVERED THE SKY OVER SEOUL...
...MRS. SELLNER'S PROPHECY MADE HEADLINES AROUND THE GLOBE.

H-HUH...? LOOK!
IT'S STARTING!
THE HOLE IS OPENING!
KRIK
KRIIIK
AAAAH!
EEK!
......?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IS THAT IT?
NOTHING'S COMING OUT.


RUSTLE
WELCOME BACK, MR. JINWOO SUNG.
OR SHOULD I CALL YOU THE SHADOW MONARCH?
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD CHOOSE TO LOOK LIKE A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.
IF I'D COME OUT AS A DIRTY, BEARDED MAN, PEOPLE MIGHT'VE REALLY BEEN STARTLED.
IT'S NICE TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE PERSON WELCOMING ME BACK.
TO BE HONEST... I NEVER THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD SUCCEED.


BUT I CAN FEEL THE WEIGHT OF TEN MILLION SOLDIERS IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS.
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE HERE TO JUST GIVE ME FLOWERS...
WHAT DO THE RULERS WANT FROM ME?
I BRING A MESSAGE.
IT'S RATHER LONG, SO SHALL WE GO ELSEWHERE?
SURE.
I JUST REMEMBERED A STOP I WANTED TO MAKE ANYWAY.

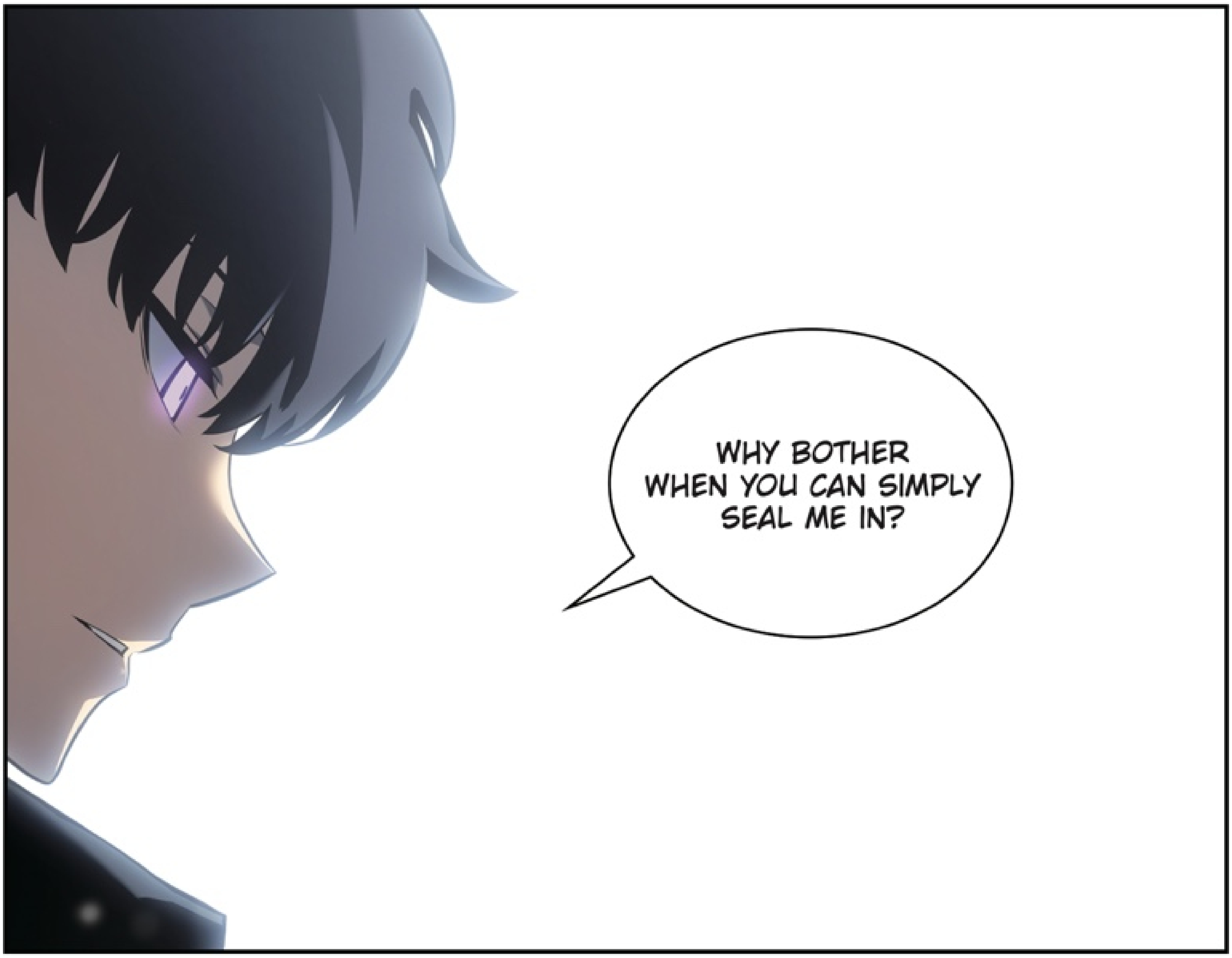
YOU WANTED...

...TO GET ICE CREAM?
MUNCH MUNCH
IF YOU'RE STUCK IN A REMOTE PLACE FOR LONG ENOUGH, YOU DEVELOP A CRAVING FOR SOMETHING SWEET.

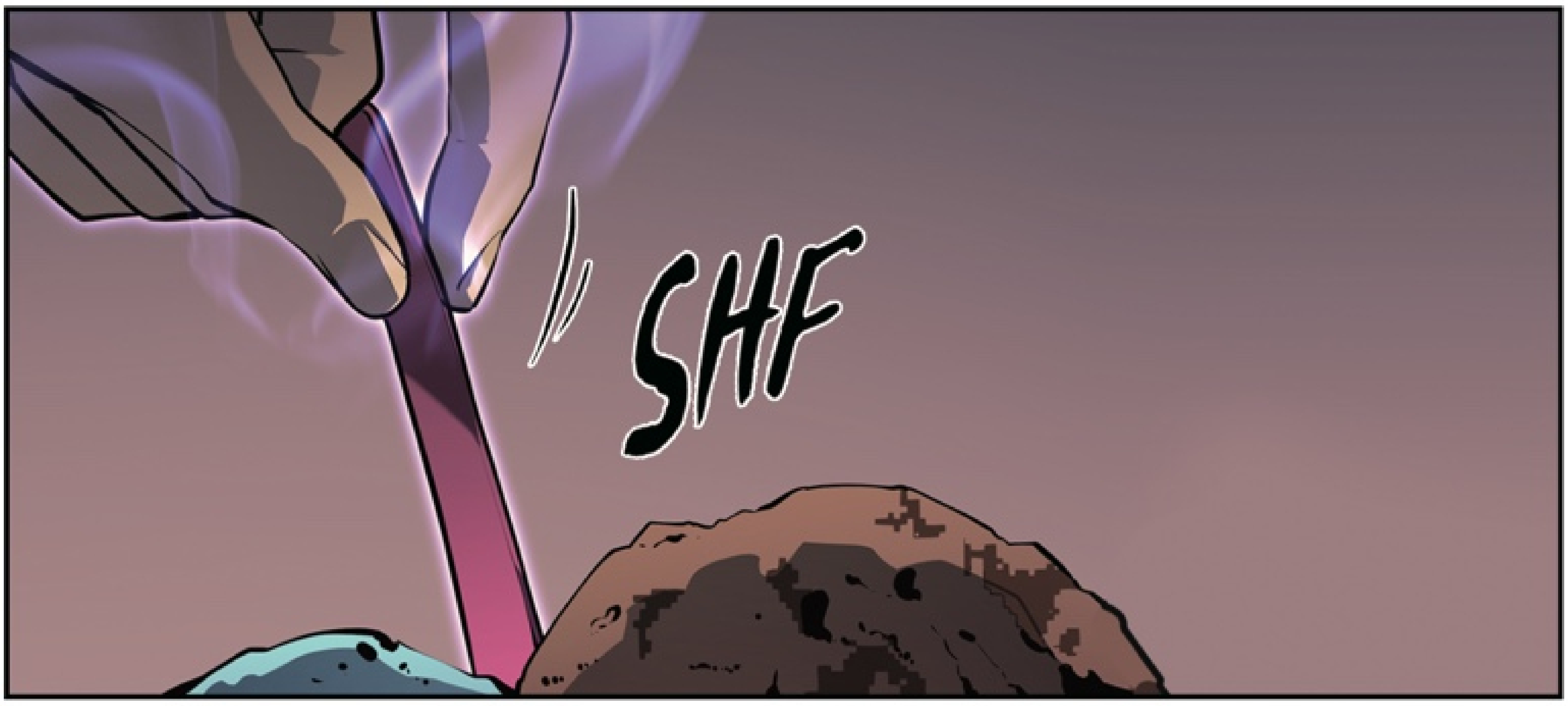
SO WHAT DO THE RULERS WANT?
RIGHT. FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST—
LET'S SKIP THE SMALL TALK.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT. RATHER, I CAME TO SEE YOU...
...BECAUSE THINGS HAVE BEEN RESOLVED.
WHOOSH
NOW, THE RULERS ARE...CONCERNED ABOUT HOW YOUR POWER WILL AFFECT THIS PLACE.
AS YOU KNOW, THE POWER YOU POSSESS IS TOO GREAT FOR THIS WORLD TO BEAR.
...SO?

A WORLD WITHOUT MANA IS FRAGILE.

AND SO, WITH YOUR COOPERATION...
...WE WOULD LIKE TO TRANSFER YOU TO A LOCATION THAT CAN HANDLE YOUR POWER.


WHY BOTHER WHEN YOU CAN SIMPLY SEAL ME IN?

YES, THAT IS ONE SOLUTION—

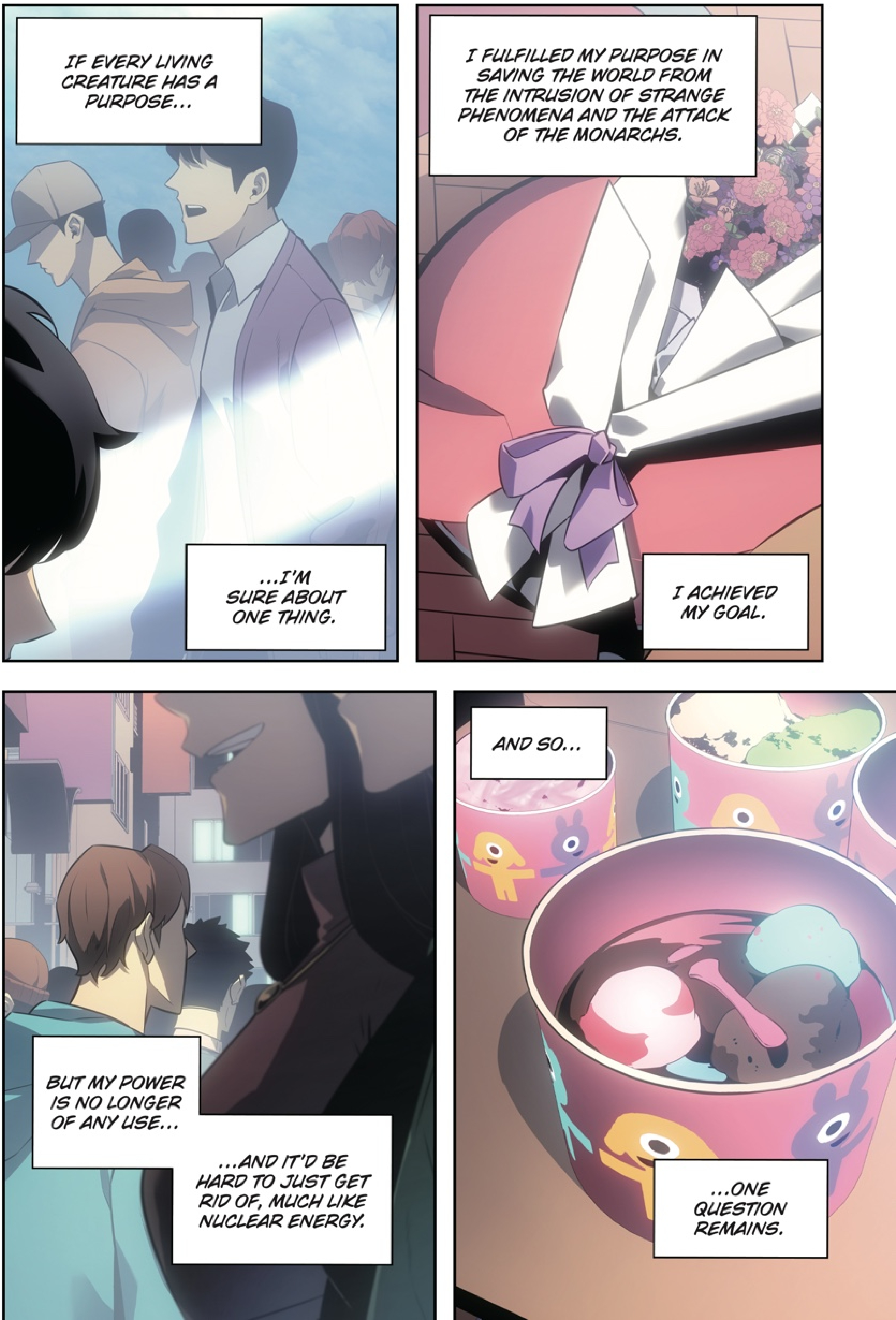

SHF

THEY WANT TO GET RID OF ME BECAUSE THEY'RE DONE WITH ME, IS THAT IT?

BECAUSE THEY FEAR MY POWER?

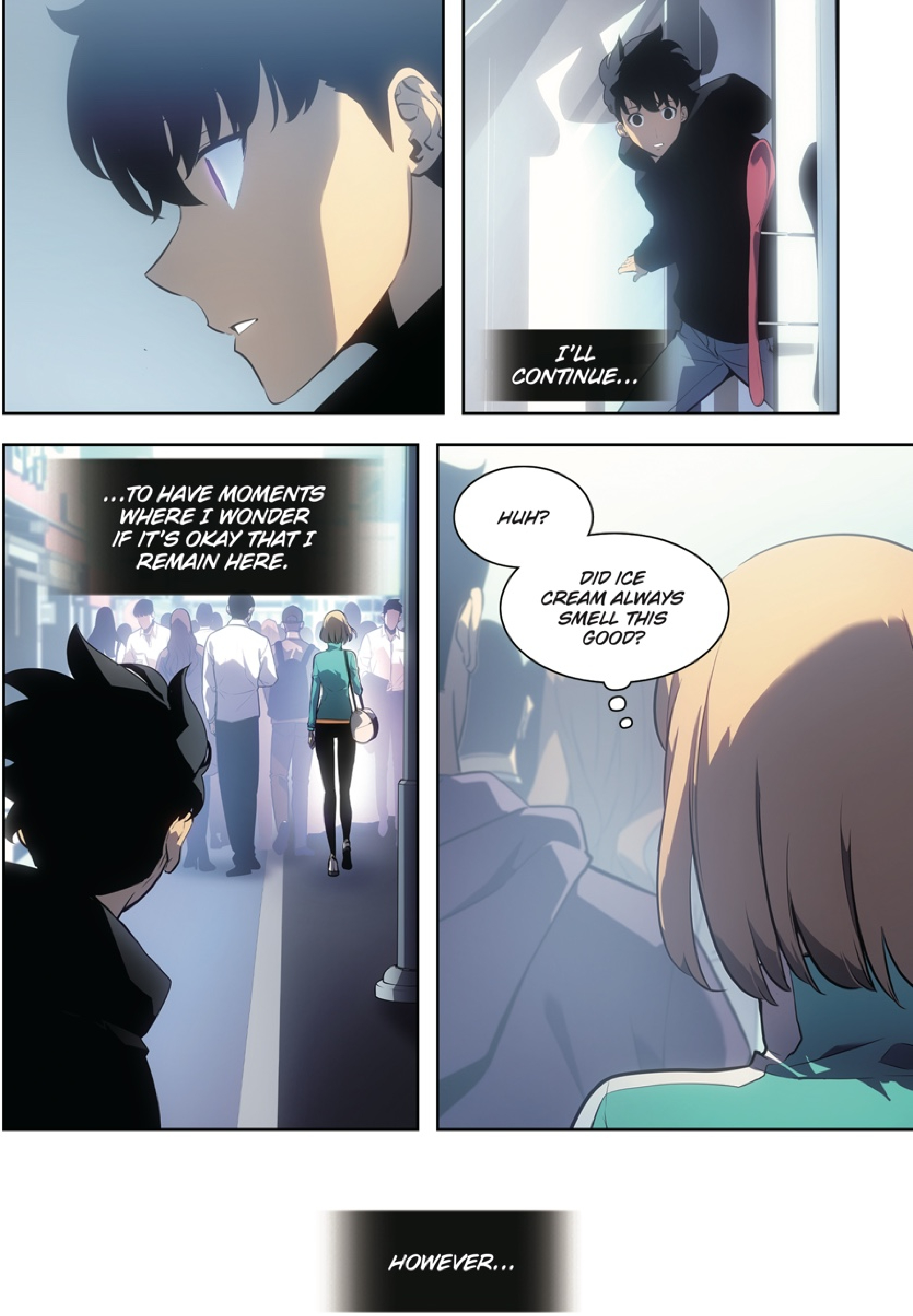
NO! NOT AT ALL!!
PLEASE READ THIS.
"THE GOD OF DEATH WILL SOON DESCEND UPON THIS LAND"? WHAT'S THIS ARTICLE?
MRS. SELLNER'S PROPHECIES WERE MAKING WAVES EVEN BEFORE YOU CAME BACK.
SHE WASN'T THIS ACCURATE IN THE PREVIOUS TIMELINE...
...BUT CONTACT WITH OUR WORLD HAS CHANGED HER.

ARE YOU SAYING MY EXISTENCE CAN TRIGGER THAT KIND OF CHANGE?
THAT IS CORRECT.
......
COULD YOU COME BACK ANOTHER TIME?
...OF COURSE, GREAT MONARCH.


IF EVERY LIVING CREATURE HAS A PURPOSE...
...I'M SURE ABOUT ONE THING.
I FULFILLED MY PURPOSE IN SAVING THE WORLD FROM THE INTRUSION OF STRANGE PHENOMENA AND THE ATTACK OF THE MONARCHS.
I ACHIEVED MY GOAL.
BUT MY POWER IS NO LONGER OF ANY USE...
...AND IT'D BE HARD TO JUST GET RID OF, MUCH LIKE NUCLEAR ENERGY.
AND SO...
...ONE QUESTION REMAINS.

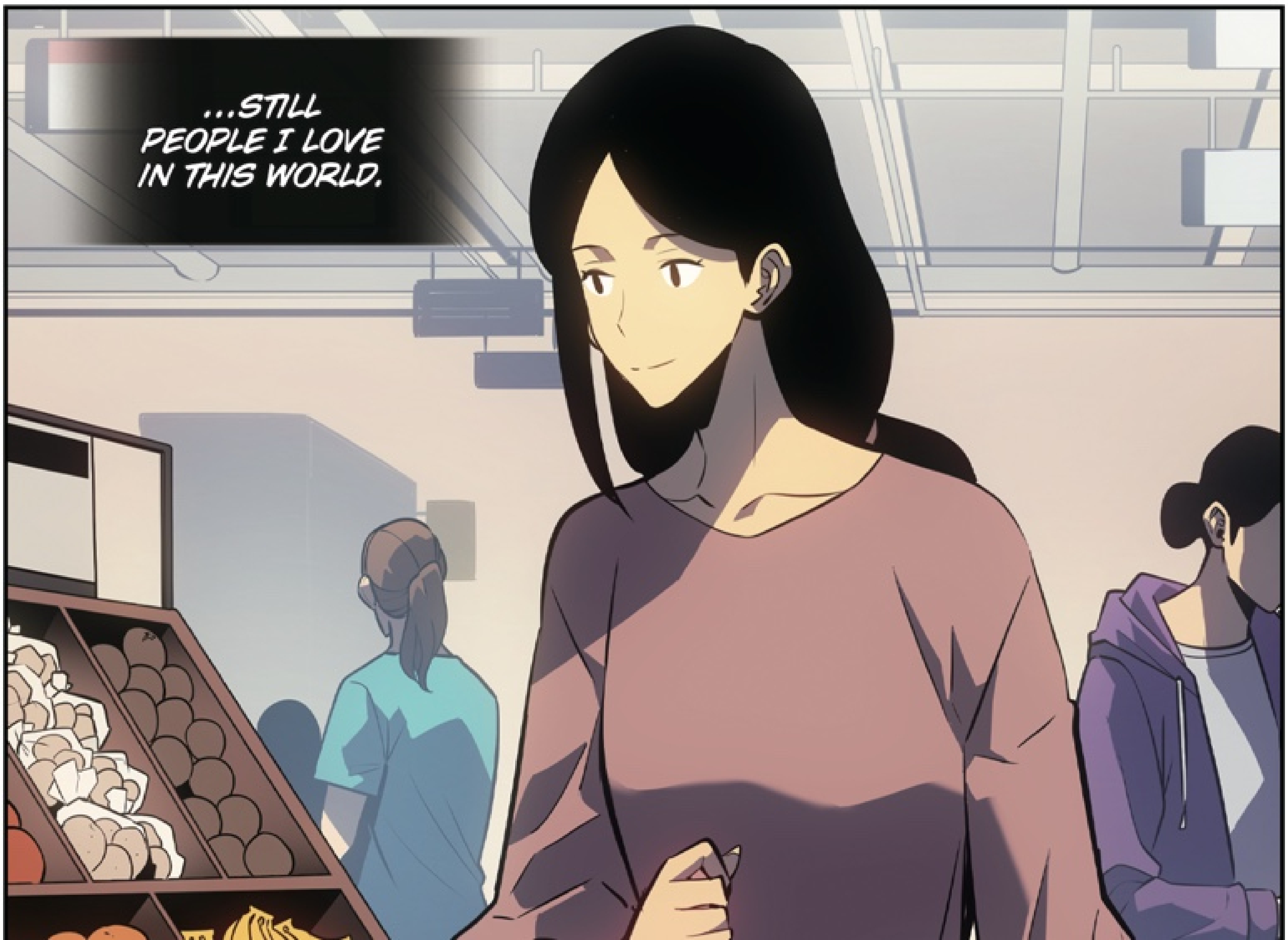
HAVE I BECOME AN EXISTENCE THAT IS NO LONGER NEEDED?

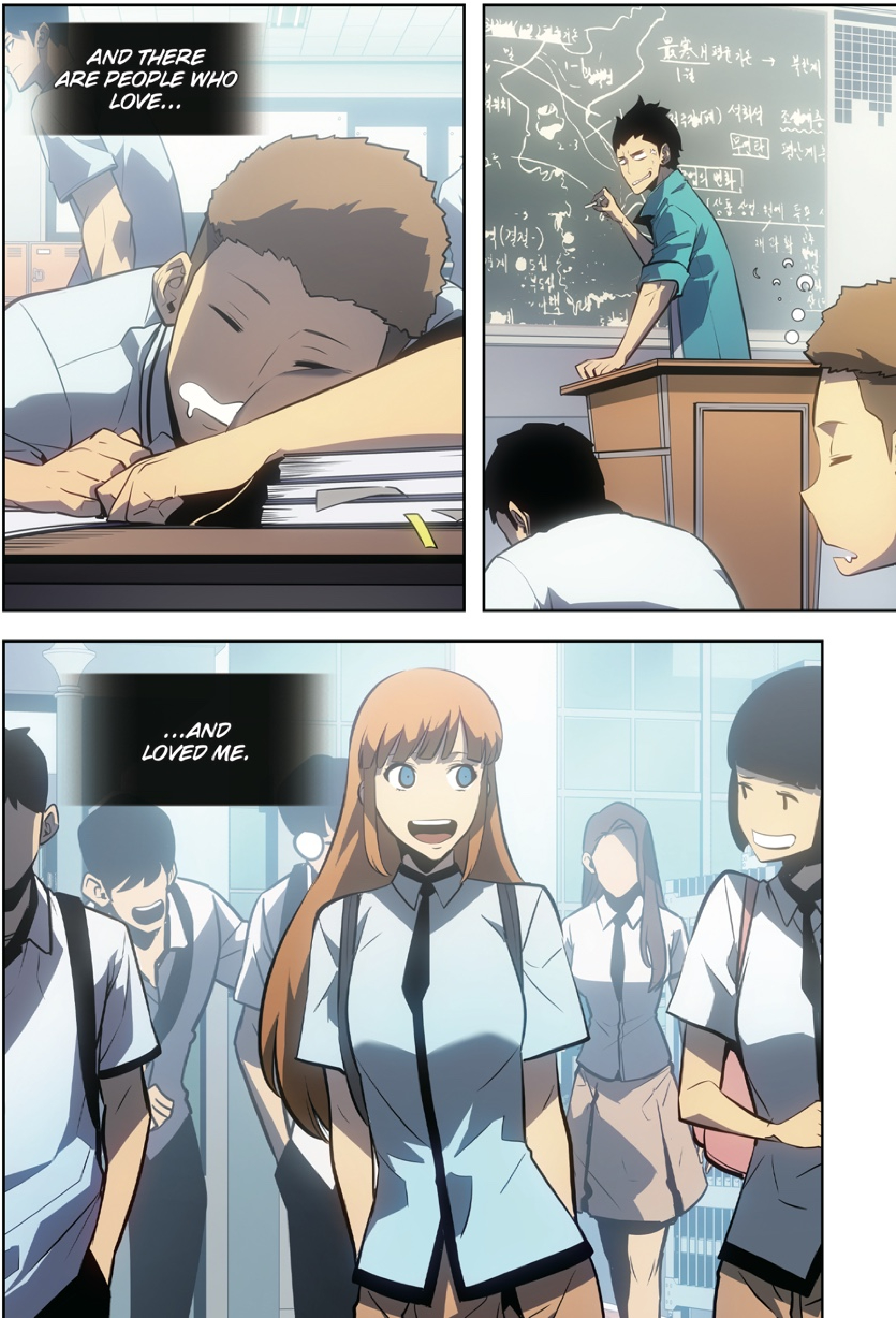
...WHAT NONSENSE.


I'LL CONTINUE...
...TO HAVE MOMENTS WHERE I WONDER IF IT'S OKAY THAT I REMAIN HERE.
HUH?
DID ICE CREAM ALWAYS SMELL THIS GOOD?
HOWEVER...

...AS LONG AS I HAVE A SINGLE REASON TO STAY...

THERE ARE...


...STILL PEOPLE I LOVE IN THIS WORLD.


AND THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO LOVE...
...AND LOVED ME.

THAT IS...

...REASON ENOUGH FOR ME TO STAY.

AND
I WILL...

...CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR MORE REASONS TO STAY.

THAT IS WHAT
I'VE DECIDED.

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 14...

Hello, everyone. Sungrak Jang here.

Thank you for loving my webcomic.
In taking on this new endeavor, I have learned a lot,
and I'm both happy and humbled by all the love I've received.

As the series draws to a close, I would like to thank my assistants:
Park, who was my sole helper during the first season.
Lee, who was my sole helper during the second season
except one or two months when they overlapped.
Both of them worked hard to help fulfill my ambitions
for this series. This webcomic wouldn't be as amazing as it is
without their passion and help. Thank you both so much.

Special thanks to my most important collaborator,
colorist Lee, who stuck with me until the end.
(I didn't get the chance to get everyone's permission to use
their names, so I'm only using last names here.)

I would also like to thank
the original author of the story, Chugong,
everyone at REDICE STUDIO,
our partners at D&C Media,
and many others.

I will continue to strive to do my best as an artist.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Sungrak Jang (DUBU)
REDICE STUDIO

Hello, this is REDICE STUDIO.

This book holds a special place in our hearts.
Although Sungrak Jang's *Solo Leveling* ends here,
his passion and love for art will live on in us forever.

Like he says, we hope this comic has been
a partner for challenges, accomplishments,
and growth for many readers.

We really appreciate all the readers
who have loved the *Solo Leveling* webcomic.
Our wish is that Sungrak Jang's work will be
remembered and loved for a long, long time.

Thank you so much for sticking with us until the end.

–From everyone at REDICE STUDIO

redice
레드아이스 스튜디오

DESPITE HAVING HIS MEMORIES WIPED, JINCHUL WOO IS STARTING TO SEE THE SHADOW ARMY.

JINWOO SUNG APPROACHES THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION...

Solo Leveling

VOL. 14 COMING SOON!

SOLO LEVELING

13

DUBU (REDICE STUDIO)
ORIGINAL STORY BY CHUGONG
ADAPTED BY h-goon

Translation: Hye Young Im ◆ Rewrite: J. Torres ◆ Lettering: Abigail Blackman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

SOLO LEVELING Volume 13
© DUBU(REDICE STUDIO), Chugong, h-goon 2018 / D&C Media
All rights reserved.
First published in Korea in 2018 by D&C Media Co., Ltd.

English translation © 2025 by Ize Press

Ize Press, LLC supports the right to free expression and the value of copyright. The purpose of copyright is to encourage writers and artists to produce the creative works that enrich our culture.

The scanning, uploading, and distribution of this book without permission is a theft of the author's intellectual property. If you would like permission to use material from the book (other than for review purposes), please contact the publisher. Thank you for your support of the author's rights.

Ize Press
150 West 30th Street, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10001

IZE PRESS

Visit us at izepress.com
facebook.com/izepress
twitter.com/izepress
instagram.com/izepress

First Ize Press Edition: August 2025
Edited by Abigail Blackman & Ize Press Editorial: Won Young Seo, JuYoun Lee
Designed by Ize Press Design: Wendy Chan

The publisher is not responsible for websites (or their content) that are not owned by the publisher.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2020950228

ISBNs: 979-8-4009-0259-8 (paperback)
979-8-4009-0260-4 (ebook)

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

TPA

Printed in South Korea